
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Senators Oke, Owen, Hargrove, Amondson, Erwin, Haugen, Snyder, Hochstatter, Deccio, M. Rasmussen and Roach)

Read first time 02/11/93.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Harbor seals and sea lion populations have greatly
9 expanded in recent years due to absolute protection afforded them under
10 the Federal Marine Mammals Protection Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Seals and sea lions are active predators upon anadromous
12 fish such as salmon and steelhead trout; and

13 WHEREAS, Anadromous fish populations are significantly reduced in
14 numbers throughout Washington state and some stocks have been listed as
15 threatened or endangered species; and

16 WHEREAS, In order to allow certain salmon and steelhead populations
17 to recover to, and be sustained at, viable levels it will be necessary
18 to have more flexibility to actively manage seals and sea lions in
19 identifiable areas where they cause unacceptable mortality levels in
20 specific fish runs; and

1 WHEREAS, The well-known situation of "Hershall the seal lion", at
2 the Ballard Locks in Seattle, is an excellent example of sea mammal
3 predation that is seriously harming a particular anadromous fish run
4 and which has yet to be thwarted by nonlethal means; and

5 WHEREAS, A long-term member of the Washington State Senate, who
6 recently passed away, Senator A.L. "Slim" Rasmussen, had long
7 championed the last resort solution to the "Hershall" problem, lethal
8 removal; and

9 WHEREAS, The lethal removal of seals and sea lions is currently
10 prohibited under the Federal Marine Mammals Protection Act in most all
11 cases; and

12 WHEREAS, It is time that the federal government allow that
13 predacious seals and sea lions be killed in order for salmon and
14 steelhead to be allowed a reasonable chance to survive;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
16 President and Congress will recognize the wisdom of Senator A.L. "Slim"
17 Rasmussen and modify the Marine Mammal Protection Act to provide for
18 reasonable, balanced, and prudent population levels of seals and sea
19 lions in the state of Washington and also provide for the active
20 management of abundant populations at set levels determined with modern
21 wildlife management science by federal and state management agencies,
22 including the use of lethal removal when and where necessary.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
25 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
26 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
27 Washington.

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