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**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Loveland, M. Rasmussen, Jesernig, Newhouse, Prince, McCaslin, West, Deccio, Moyer, Barr, Snyder, Hochstatter and Roach

Read first time 01/25/93. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

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, AND TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
5 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE  
6 ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS:

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

10 WHEREAS, The Columbia-Snake River system provides habitat for  
11 approximately two million five hundred thousand salmon, which are  
12 important to the environmental and cultural heritage of the citizens of  
13 the State of Washington; and

14 WHEREAS, The Columbia-Snake River system provides substantial  
15 economic benefits to the citizens of the State of Washington in the  
16 areas of agriculture, navigation, fisheries, energy, industry,  
17 recreation, and flood control; and

18 WHEREAS, Certain species of salmon have been designated as  
19 threatened or endangered under the authority granted by the Endangered  
20 Species Act; and

1       WHEREAS, Your Memorialists are committed to protecting threatened  
2 and endangered salmon species and to preserving and enhancing existing  
3 salmon runs by means of the most biologically effective, least costly  
4 alternative; and

5       WHEREAS, Fisheries biologists from a variety of disciplines have  
6 identified a range of causes of mortality at each stage of the salmon's  
7 life cycle, and have agreed that recovery measures must address causes  
8 of mortality at each stage of the life cycle; and

9       WHEREAS, There is a great uncertainty regarding the biological  
10 benefits to salmon of some of the proposed solutions, including  
11 increased stream velocity; and

12       WHEREAS, Drawdowns below minimum operating pool on the Snake River,  
13 as demonstrated by the test drawdowns conducted in March 1992, provided  
14 limited migration benefits for the salmon, caused the loss of as many  
15 as thirty thousand resident fish, disrupted navigation, and caused  
16 substantial physical property damage to public and private facilities;  
17 and

18       WHEREAS, Maintaining reservoir levels at minimum operating pool,  
19 and minimum irrigation pool on the John Day reservoir, enables the  
20 river system to support critical economic activity;

21       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that further  
22 drawdowns on the Columbia-Snake River system be limited to minimum  
23 operating pool or minimum irrigation pool on the John Day reservoir;  
24 and

25       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
26 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
27 States, the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the  
28 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and to the President  
29 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
31 Washington.

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