
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8018

State of Washington

54th Legislature

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By Senators Spanel, Haugen, A. Anderson, Morton and Sellar

Read first time 02/16/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

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, There is a long history of free travel and communication
9 between the American and Canadian people, based on mutual trust and
10 respect; and

11 WHEREAS, The interests of American and Canadian citizens and
12 businesses are best served by having the fewest possible impediments to
13 personal, cultural, and commercial exchanges; and

14 WHEREAS, The imposition of a border fee injects a concept that is
15 inconsistent with the free exchange of people and commerce; and

16 WHEREAS, The impediments created for travel, commerce, and
17 visitation far outweigh the additional revenues and will operate to
18 reduce the opportunities for economic development on both sides of the
19 American-Canadian border; and

20 WHEREAS, It is a virtual certainty that a border fee to enter the
21 United States will generate a border fee to enter Canada, causing

1 further erosion of the relationships between the countries and people;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The recently concluded north American free trade agreement
4 is predicated on expanded exchange and growth, not restrictions on
5 commerce that would be generated by the imposition of a border fee; and

6 WHEREAS, The imposition of a fee raises a specter of cultural
7 elitism that is not consistent with the historical view of American-
8 Canadian relations;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully pray that the
10 President and Congress maintain a free flow of people and commerce
11 between the American and Canadian countries and not enact any fee for
12 travel from Canada to America.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
15 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
17 Washington.

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