
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ecology & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Hale, Fairley, Winsley, Haugen, Sheldon, McCaslin, Rasmussen, Spanel and McAuliffe)

Read first time 01/25/96.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE 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, The United States National Park Service was created to
9 manage national parks "to conserve the scenery and the natural and
10 historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the
11 enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave
12 them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"; and

13 WHEREAS, The national park system received two hundred sixty-eight
14 million visitors in 1991 and is expected to receive as many as five
15 hundred million visitors a year by the year 2010; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service is guided by the mandate
17 of multiple use, and manages more miles of recreational trails than any
18 other agency in Washington; and

19 WHEREAS, Tourism is an important component of the Washington state
20 economy and is sustained, in part, by our national parks and forests,
21 including the Coulee Dam National Recreation Area, Fort Vancouver

1 National Historic Site, Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Mt.
2 St. Helens Visitor Center and National Volcanic Monument, Mount Rainier
3 National Park, North Cascades National Park, Olympic National Park,
4 Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, San Juan Island Historic Park, Ebeys
5 Landing National Historic Reserve, and the Whitman Mission National
6 Historic Site; and

7 WHEREAS, These national parks, historical parks, and national
8 forests honor Washington state's natural and cultural heritage and
9 provide valuable educational opportunities; and

10 WHEREAS, National parks and forests provide significant economic
11 benefits to local communities, many of which are almost solely
12 dependent upon visitors to these parks and forests; and

13 WHEREAS, National parks and forests provide valuable recreational
14 opportunities for the citizens of Washington; and

15 WHEREAS, Even a temporary closure of the national parks and forests
16 has a negative impact on local economies and regional tourism;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
18 Congress enact legislation that:

19 (1) Supports adequate funding for the continued management of a
20 diversity of natural, cultural, and historical park and forest units by
21 the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service; and

22 (2) Will help the National Park Service manage its park units more
23 efficiently, including legislation that would increase park revenues
24 from concessions and user fees.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That Your Memorialists respectfully pray that
26 Congress enact no legislation or budget reductions that:

27 (1) Reduces park service or forest service hours of operation, even
28 for a temporary closure; and

29 (2) Includes any National Park Closure Commission provisions in the
30 budget reconciliation for the Department of the Interior;

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
33 United States, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the
34 Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the President of the United
35 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
36 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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