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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Hale, Fairley, Winsley, Haugen, Sheldon, McCaslin, Rasmussen, Spanel and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

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, and the Whitman Mission National  
5 Historic Site; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That Your Memorialists respectfully pray that  
25 Congress enact no legislation that:

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

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

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

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