
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8016

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Spanel and Kline

Read first time 01/12/98. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & 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, Invasions by nonindigenous aquatic species have dramatic
9 ecological and economic impact on marine, estuarine, and freshwater
10 systems throughout the world, and ballast water discharged from ships
11 is the single largest source of these invasions; and

12 WHEREAS, Billions of gallons of ballast water may be discharged
13 from incoming ships each year in the ports of the Columbia river, the
14 coast of Washington, and Puget Sound; and

15 WHEREAS, Increased global trade between Washington and foreign
16 ports increases the already high vulnerability of Washington to
17 invasions of nonindigenous species from ballast water; and

18 WHEREAS, The zebra mussel *Dreissena* has invaded the Great Lakes and
19 Mississippi river drainage as a result of ballast water discharged from
20 ships originating in foreign ports, causing billions of dollars of

1 economic damage to those regions, and is increasingly likely to invade
2 the waters of Washington state; and

3 WHEREAS, Estuarine-dependent fisheries of the Pacific Coast are
4 also at risk from the estuarine European green crab, which is already
5 established in Oregon; and

6 WHEREAS, One ballast water introduction of a predaceous freshwater
7 shrimp discovered in the Columbia river in the fall of 1995 may
8 threaten a major food source of juvenile salmon, and provides evidence
9 that we must address the economic harm that may occur from the
10 discharge of contaminated ballast water; and

11 WHEREAS, Nonnative aquatic plants degrade water quality,
12 recreational opportunities, and fish habitats, and also reduce flow
13 through conveyance systems and block irrigation systems; and

14 WHEREAS, The nonindigenous aquatic plants Hydrilla and Spartina
15 have invaded Washington's freshwater and estuarine systems, causing
16 severe ecological and economic damage; and

17 WHEREAS, Any future invasion of the Washington aquatic ecosystems
18 could have catastrophic ecological and economic impacts for the region;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Preventing more of these introductions to our waters is
21 critical;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
23 Congress of the United States appropriates resources authorized for
24 full implementation of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention
25 and Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-646), as amended by the National
26 Invasive Species Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-332), that:

27 (1) Prohibits the discharge of ballast water that originated in a
28 foreign port into a river, estuary or bay or the Pacific Ocean within
29 the territorial limits of the United States;

30 (2) Requires ballast water that originated in a foreign port to be
31 discharged at sea and replaced with ocean water by vessels that enter
32 the waters of the United States; and

33 (3) Charges the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
34 with addressing existing and potential problems with invasive species
35 in the United States, including the West Coast.

36 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
37 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
38 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
2 State of Washington.

--- END ---