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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Rossi, Benton, Oke, Jacobsen, Prentice, T. Sheldon, Finkbeiner, Hochstatter and Stevens)

Read first time 02/06/98.

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 citizens of Washington State place great value upon  
9 their natural heritage and desire to protect and enhance it; and

10 WHEREAS, The growing population of Washington State is placing  
11 growing demands on the state's natural resources available for  
12 recreation; and

13 WHEREAS, Because of this growing demand and its attendant impacts  
14 on the environment, the federal government is considering restrictions  
15 on public access to popular recreation sites in Washington's central  
16 Cascade Mountains; and

17 WHEREAS, Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. presently owns numerous  
18 sites near the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area which are of surpassing  
19 recreational and environmental value; and

20 WHEREAS, Such lands are located in a "checkerboard" pattern of  
21 alternating sections, a configuration that presents both private and

1 public land managers with difficulties in meeting their respective  
2 objectives; and

3 WHEREAS, Both sectors have stated a willingness to exchange lands  
4 to accommodate mutual interests; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal government and Plum Creek Timber Company are  
6 completing an environmental impact statement for an exchange of private  
7 and public lands in the Cascade Mountains; and

8 WHEREAS, This process has involved extensive public participation;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, This exchange complements the President's Forest Plan; and

11 WHEREAS, This exchange, if completed as currently proposed, would  
12 transfer into public ownership up to 60,000 acres of private land while  
13 transferring into private ownership up to 40,000 acres of public land;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber  
16 Company L.P., have worked toward this land exchange for over a decade,  
17 expending more than two million dollars in environmental studies and  
18 land analysis; and

19 WHEREAS, Time is of the essence because the longer it takes to  
20 complete the exchange, the less private land will be precluded from  
21 harvest activities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
23 States Government promptly complete the proposed Interstate 90 land  
24 exchange, thus securing the greatest possible environmental,  
25 recreational, and land-management benefits at the earliest possible  
26 time.

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
28 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
29 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
30 of the House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of  
31 Agriculture Dan Glickman, and each member of Congress from the State of  
32 Washington.

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