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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8025**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Fraser, Kline, Spanel and Rasmussen)

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, Washington state is home to a large and diverse array of  
9 fish and wildlife habitats and species, all of which require by law  
10 some level of protection and management by the department of fish and  
11 wildlife and other local, state, and federal agencies; and

12 WHEREAS, A large majority of Washington's residents and visitors  
13 actively pursue and enjoy the state's diverse fish and wildlife  
14 resources. For example, seventy-five percent of those who responded to  
15 a 1996 opinion survey commissioned by the department of fish and  
16 wildlife said that observing and learning about songbirds and other  
17 nongame wildlife species is an important part of their lives; and

18 WHEREAS, Wildlife recreation is an important part of the state's  
19 economy. For example, a 1991 survey conducted by the United States  
20 fish and wildlife service showed that wildlife recreation accounted for  
21 more than three hundred fifty million dollars in annual retail sales,

1 one hundred fifty million dollars in wages and salaries, and almost  
2 eight thousand jobs in Washington; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux funds,  
4 administered by the United States fish and wildlife service, have been  
5 highly successful in helping Washington and other states protect  
6 sportfish and wildlife resources for many years. Pittman-Robertson and  
7 Wallop-Breaux funds accrue from small federal excise taxes on firearms,  
8 ammunition, bows and arrows, fishing tackle, motor boat fuel, and small  
9 engine fuel; and

10 WHEREAS, A similar and proposed federal excise tax on selected  
11 outdoor-related products, including binoculars, field guides, tents,  
12 and canoes would generate a new dedicated trust fund for state-level  
13 fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, and education programs. If  
14 passed, this new fund would provide a "third leg" to the Pittman-  
15 Robertson and Wallop-Breaux federal aid funds which could generate  
16 three hundred fifty million dollars per year nationally; and

17 WHEREAS, An estimated eight to ten million dollars of these federal  
18 matching funds would accrue to the department of fish and wildlife each  
19 year and would be used to address the critical needs of nongame  
20 wildlife species, as well as the recreational and educational needs of  
21 Washington residents and visitors, especially those who enjoy observing  
22 and learning about our state's diverse fish and wildlife resources. Up  
23 to forty percent of Washington's share of the Teaming With Wildlife  
24 funds would be made available to the state parks and recreation  
25 commission, other state and local agencies, and conservation groups for  
26 approved wildlife recreation, education and conservation projects;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
28 pass legislation proposed by the national Fish and Wildlife Diversity  
29 Initiative, or Teaming With Wildlife campaign, to create a new  
30 dedicated trust fund for state-level fish and wildlife management,  
31 which would be administered by the United States fish and wildlife  
32 service.

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

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