
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8025

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Oke, Fraser, Kline, Spanel and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/26/98. 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, 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, fishing tackle, motor boats, and motor boat fuel; and

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

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

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

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

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