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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8028

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session

By Senators Sellar, Rasmussen, Deccio, Newhouse, Prentice and Schow

Read first time 02/02/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

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, AND TO THE UNITED STATES  
5 TRADE REPRESENTATIVE:

6            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8 represent and petition as follows:

9            WHEREAS, The apple industry is a vital component of Washington's  
10 economy, generating over one billion dollars in revenue annually, and  
11 constituting the number one agricultural commodity in the state; and

12            WHEREAS, Over thirty-four percent of Washington's apple crop is  
13 exported to markets outside the United States; and

14            WHEREAS, Mexico is the largest single export market for Washington  
15 and United States apple producers, representing between seventy-five  
16 and one hundred million dollars in sales; and

17            WHEREAS, Mexico imposed a 101.1 percent preliminary duty on United  
18 States red delicious and golden delicious apples on September 1, 1997,  
19 as a result of an antidumping petition filed by the Chihuahua Regional  
20 Agricultural Association of Fruit Producers; and

1       WHEREAS, An additional ten percent import duty is levied on all  
2 apple varieties including red and golden delicious under the North  
3 American Free Trade Agreement; and

4       WHEREAS, Numerous agricultural commodities that are produced and  
5 exported from Mexico have a ready and open access to markets in the  
6 United States, including Washington State; and

7       WHEREAS, Previous and current Legislatures and Governors of  
8 Washington have forged long-term bonds of friendship and cooperation  
9 with Mexico, including numerous official exchange and joint assistance  
10 programs throughout our histories; and

11       WHEREAS, It is the hope of the Washington State Legislature that  
12 our ties of cooperation will be strengthened through the removal of  
13 this economically devastating 101.1 percent preliminary duty, and that  
14 both nations may experience mutual expansion of our agricultural  
15 commodity trade;

16       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
17 President, the Congress of the United States, and the United States  
18 trade representative take all necessary actions to ensure that the  
19 current 101.1 percent preliminary duty be removed and that Washington  
20 apples regain their competitive position in the markets of Mexico.

21       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
22 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
23 United States, the United States Trade Representative, the President of  
24 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
25 and each member of Congress from the States of Washington, Oregon, and  
26 Idaho.

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