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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4012

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Regala, Eickmeyer, Buck, Clements, Anderson, Veloria and Conway

Read first time 02/19/1999. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

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 contains a rich diversity of forests,  
9 rivers, seacoasts, grasslands, deserts, and other habitats, and an  
10 equally diverse population of fish and wildlife, all of which require  
11 by law some level of protection and responsible management by federal,  
12 state, and local agencies; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington state also contains a large number and variety  
14 of outstanding recreational facilities and opportunities, including  
15 three national parks, a national volcanic monument, one hundred twenty-  
16 five state parks, and many local parks, trails, water access areas,  
17 swimming pools, and sports fields; and

18 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation and wildlife enjoyment are important  
19 elements of the Northwest way of life. A large majority of  
20 Washington's residents and visitors actively pursue and enjoy a range  
21 of outdoor recreation activities, from active sports such as soccer,

1 softball, swimming, and bicycling, to outdoor and wildlife-related  
2 pursuits such as hiking, camping, canoeing, and wildlife observation;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation and wildlife enjoyment are also  
5 important elements of Washington's economy. For example, a 1996 survey  
6 conducted by the United States fish and wildlife service showed that  
7 annual wildlife-related recreation expenditures exceeded one hundred  
8 billion dollars, almost three billion dollars spent in Washington  
9 state. Wildlife viewing alone accounts for more than twenty-one  
10 thousand jobs in Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington's population is one of the fastest-growing in  
12 the United States, with an even faster-growing public demand for  
13 wildlife conservation, wildlife-related recreation, and outdoor  
14 recreation facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was  
16 created in 1965 to preserve, develop, and assure that all Americans  
17 have access to quality outdoor recreation. In the thirty years since  
18 its creation, LWCF has funded the acquisition of almost seven million  
19 acres of parkland, water resources, wildlife habitat open space, and  
20 the development of more than thirty-seven thousand state, municipal,  
21 and local parks and recreation projects. In recent years, LWCF funding  
22 for federal projects has been reduced by more than half and funding for  
23 state projects has been entirely eliminated; and

24 WHEREAS, Washington and other states lack adequate, dedicated  
25 funding for fish and wildlife protection and management, especially for  
26 those species which are not hunted and fished and which are not listed  
27 as threatened or endangered. In 1980, Congress passed the Fish and  
28 Wildlife Conservation Act (P.L. 96-366) which was intended to address  
29 the protection and management of nonhunted wildlife species, but the  
30 act was never funded, leaving the entire responsibility to the states;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
32 pass legislation to restore and revitalize federal funding for the Land  
33 and Water Conservation Fund, as well as to create a new dedicated fund  
34 for state-level fish and wildlife management, which would be  
35 administered by the United States fish and wildlife service.

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.

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