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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4023

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Doumit, Sump, Regala, G. Chandler, Anderson, Ericksen, Rockefeller, Clements, Stensen, Eickmeyer, Lovick, Edwards, O'Brien, Linville, Parlette, Mulliken, Dickerson, Conway, Mitchell, Wolfe, Edmonds, Veloria, Santos, Skinner and Kagi

Read first time 01/21/2000. 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, AND TO THE UNITED STATES  
5 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, AND TO THE UNITED  
6 STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION:

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

10 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has embarked on a major salmon  
11 recovery effort as reflected in significant legislation enacted in 1998  
12 and 1999; and

13 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has formulated a state-wide  
14 strategy to recover salmon that recognizes predation by marine mammals  
15 as one factor hindering the recovery of salmon; and

16 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has spent and is prepared to spend  
17 millions of dollars to protect and restore salmon populations; and

18 WHEREAS, The state of Washington is aggressively pursuing salmon  
19 recovery through a comprehensive undertaking in partnerships with  
20 federal agencies, Indian tribal nations, local governments, nonprofit  
21 organizations, and others; and

1       WHEREAS, The national marine fisheries service has listed under the  
2 federal endangered species act a number of salmon species that live in  
3 evolutionarily significant units within Washington state; and

4       WHEREAS, Predation by pinnipeds throughout Washington inland and  
5 coastal waters is widely viewed as a significant issue for recovery of  
6 listed fish species; and

7       WHEREAS, The federal marine mammal protection act of 1972, as  
8 amended in 1994, has proven ineffective in managing harbor seal and  
9 California sea lion predation on salmonids; and

10       WHEREAS, Washington's efforts toward salmon recovery, while  
11 addressing nearly all the factors that have led to the decline of  
12 salmon, cannot currently, because of federal law, effectively address  
13 pinniped predation; and

14       WHEREAS, Public confidence and support of Washington's salmon  
15 recovery efforts will be diminished unless the interaction among harbor  
16 seals, California sea lions and salmonid populations is better  
17 understood and site-specific conflicts are addressed;

18       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
19 pass legislation that amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972,  
20 to be responsive to the recommendations of the national marine  
21 fisheries service as contained in their report submitted in 1999 to  
22 Congress: "Impacts of California Sea Lions and Pacific Harbor Seals on  
23 Salmonids and West Coast Ecosystems."

24       Congress is further urged to:

25       (1) Continue funding joint federal and state research on pinniped  
26 interaction with salmonids, especially site-specific investigations to  
27 determine the significance of pinniped predation on adult and juvenile  
28 salmonids for stock recovery, and to develop a cohesive ocean resources  
29 conservation plan that balances protection of both pinnipeds and  
30 salmonids; and

31       (2) As recommended by the national marine fisheries service, grant  
32 at least limited management authority for state and federal agencies to  
33 remove pinnipeds preying on listed fish stocks at areas of restricted  
34 fish passage.

35       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
36 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
37 United States, the United States House of Representatives Committee on  
38 Resources, the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
39 Transportation, 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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