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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4026

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Doumit, Buck, Anderson, Sump, Eickmeyer, Hatfield and Schoesler

Read first time 01/24/2000. 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; and

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

17 WHEREAS, The state of Washington is aggressively pursuing salmon  
18 recovery through a comprehensive undertaking in partnerships with  
19 federal agencies, Indian tribal nations, local governments, nonprofit  
20 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 certain migratory birds such as the Caspian  
5 Tern is widely viewed as a significant issue for recovery of listed  
6 fish species throughout Washington inland and coastal waters; and

7       WHEREAS, The federal migratory bird treaty act of 1918, 16 U.S.C.A.  
8 Sec. 703 et seq., has proven ineffective in managing migratory bird  
9 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 predation by these migratory birds; and

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

18       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
19 pass legislation that amends the federal migratory bird treaty act of  
20 1918, 16 U.S.C.A. Sec. 703 et seq., to provide a more effective means  
21 to allow for the protection and restoration of salmonid populations.

22       Congress is further urged to:

23       (1) Fund joint federal and state research on migratory bird  
24 interactions with salmonids, especially site-specific investigations to  
25 determine the significance of migratory bird predation on adult and  
26 juvenile salmonids for stock recovery, and to develop a cohesive  
27 conservation plan that balances protection of both migratory birds and  
28 salmonids;

29       (2) Grant at least limited management authority for state and  
30 federal agencies to remove those migratory birds preying on listed fish  
31 stocks at areas of restricted fish passage.

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 United States House of Representatives Committee on  
35 Resources, the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
36 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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