
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senator T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/19/1999. Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality & Water 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 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
6 SERVICE, THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, THE UNITED STATES
7 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
8 INTERIOR:

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

12 WHEREAS, Many rural areas of this country are experiencing poor
13 economic health, evidenced by high unemployment and low wages; and

14 WHEREAS, In Washington state, the economic disparity between urban
15 and rural areas is severe, with a low rate of business growth in rural
16 areas and an erosion of natural resource-based industries; and

17 WHEREAS, Strong rural economies not only allow rural citizens to
18 prosper, but also increase the economic well-being of the entire
19 country in which they are located; and

1 WHEREAS, The success of rural economic development measures depends
2 upon a rural county's ability to attract new businesses and industries
3 and to facilitate expansion of existing businesses and industries; and

4 WHEREAS, During 1998, a legislative Joint Task Force on Rural Land
5 Use and Economic Development in Washington State heard extensive
6 testimony around the state regarding the impact of compliance with
7 federal environmental laws on rural economic development; and

8 WHEREAS, Rural economic development efforts may be impeded by the
9 regulatory burdens associated with federal environmental laws,
10 including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered
11 Species Act;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
13 States Congress review the impact of federal environmental mandates on
14 rural areas and consider whether changes to these laws are warranted.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
16 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
17 United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the
18 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries
19 Service, the United States Department of Commerce, the United States
20 Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate,
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
22 Congress from the State of Washington.

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