
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8025

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Senators Gardner, Spanel and Morton

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

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, The border between the United States and Canada is the
9 longest undefended border in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, "As Children of a Common Mother," the United States and
11 Canada share not only a common heritage, but also common values and
12 common interests; and

13 WHEREAS, Canada is one of Washington's top trading partners, second
14 only to Japan; and

15 WHEREAS, Blaine, Washington, is the third busiest vehicle crossing
16 and fourth busiest commercial vehicle crossing along the length of the
17 United States/Canadian border; and

18 WHEREAS, The value of goods traveling either way between Canada and
19 the United States at the four western Washington border crossings -
20 Peace Arch, Pacific Highway, Lynden, and Sumas - amounts to more than
21 11.7 billion dollars a year, or 32 million dollars a day; and

1 WHEREAS, The volume of goods moving across Washington's other
2 border crossings at Oroville, Danville, Laurier, and Boundary also
3 continue to increase; and

4 WHEREAS, Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and
5 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 inadvertently required time-
6 consuming reporting by Canadians leaving Canada bound for the United
7 States and again as they return to Canada; and

8 WHEREAS, Enforcement of the mandates of Section 110 along the
9 United States/Canadian border will cause unconscionably long delays,
10 require extraordinarily expensive development of, and investment in,
11 technology and infrastructure, and will not significantly reduce
12 illegal immigration, improve drug enforcement, or protect from
13 terrorism; and

14 WHEREAS, Numerous attempts to repeal Section 110 have so far been
15 unsuccessful; and

16 WHEREAS, It is imperative that any unreasonable, unnecessary, and
17 ineffective rules that hinder the free passage of people and goods
18 between the United States and Canada be removed;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the Senate
20 and the House of Representatives of the United States immediately
21 repeal Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
22 Responsibility Act of 1996, and therefore encourage the continued free
23 flow of people and goods across the United States/Canadian border.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Legislature encourage local, state,
25 provincial, and federal governments of both countries to work together
26 to open our borders further to make the passage of people and goods
27 safe and efficient, thus creating an even stronger, more lasting bond
28 between our people; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
30 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
31 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
32 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
33 State of Washington.

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