
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8024

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Second Special Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Eide, Regala, Fraser, Constantine, Spanel and Costa

Read first time 06/07/2001. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Parks & Shorelines.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED
6 STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

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 National Energy Policy Development Group chaired by
11 Vice President Richard Cheney has recommended that the President direct
12 the secretaries of the departments of interior and commerce to
13 undertake a review of congressional, executive, and administrative
14 actions withdrawing or restricting coastal zone and outer continental
15 shelf submerged lands (hereinafter OCS lands) from leasing for the
16 exploration, drilling, and development of oil and gas resources; and

17 WHEREAS, The OCS lands of the Washington coast are among the
18 nation's coastal waters that are the subject of this recommendation;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, In the words of the United States Supreme Court decision
21 in *United States v. Locke*, the "State of Washington embraces some of

1 the Nation's most significant waters and coastal regions", and its
2 coastal waters in their natural state provide enormous benefits to the
3 state, region, and the nation for its biological productivity,
4 fisheries propagation, coastwise and international waterborne commerce,
5 scenic and recreational enjoyment, and other benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, Most of the OCS lands off the Washington coast have been
7 designated by Congress as the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary,
8 and such area contains many types of crucial habitat, including
9 nearshore kelp beds, subtidal reefs, rocky and sandy intertidal zones,
10 submarine canyons, and plankton-rich upwelling zones that all support
11 great biodiversity; and

12 WHEREAS, Included within the sanctuary area of Washington's OCS
13 lands are three national wildlife refuges -- Flattery Rocks, Quillayute
14 Needles, and Copalis Rock -- that protect over 800 named and unnamed
15 offshore rocks, seastacks, and islands, and these refuges are home to
16 29 species of marine mammals, nesting seabirds, haul-outs for Steller
17 sea lions, nest sites for peregrine falcons, and numerous other
18 wildlife species; and

19 WHEREAS, All areas of Washington OCS lands have been effectively
20 withdrawn from oil and gas leasing since 1990 through a combination of
21 congressional and executive actions, including congressional
22 authorization for such withdrawal and an executive order acting upon
23 such authority to withdraw these and other OCS lands through the year
24 2012, a withdrawal with an indefinite termination date of such OCS
25 lands currently designated as national marine sanctuaries,
26 administrative regulations prohibiting oil and gas exploration,
27 development, or production within the Olympic coast sanctuary, and an
28 agreement between the federal government and the state of Washington,
29 entered by the Bush administration in 1990, that such areas of the
30 Washington coast would not be included in recurring five-year OCS
31 leasing plans without extensive environmental and other studies having
32 first been completed; and

33 WHEREAS, The Washington legislature and governor have prohibited
34 leasing of Washington's tidal or submerged lands to the 3-mile limit of
35 state jurisdiction for purposes of oil or gas exploration, development,
36 or production;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
38 President, in acting upon the recommendations of the National Energy
39 Policy Development Group, exclude all Washington OCS lands from any

1 national review of currently withdrawn OCS lands with the objective of
2 initiating planning for leasing for oil or gas exploration,
3 development, or production. Your Memorialists further pray that the
4 Congress and President reaffirm the actions of prior congresses and
5 presidents in withdrawing Washington OCS lands from active
6 consideration of leasing for oil or gas exploration, development, or
7 production.

8 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
9 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
10 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, the
11 Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce, the President of
12 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
13 and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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