
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4019

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Kristiansen, Armstrong, Condotta, Benson, Sump, Ahern, Pearson, Holmquist, Mielke, McMahan, Schoesler, Ericksen, Newhouse, Skinner and Bush

Read first time 02/24/2003. Referred to Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GORDON CAMPBELL, PREMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF
2 BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, AND TO THE HONORABLE JOYCE MURRAY, MINISTER
3 OF LAND, WATER AND AIR PROTECTION, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
4 CANADA, AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA:

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, It is the understanding of the Legislature of the State of
9 Washington that the Province of British Columbia is considering the
10 release of grizzly bears near our common border, with full knowledge
11 that the natural range of grizzly bears will extend well into the
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS, It is the understanding of the Legislature of the State of
14 Washington that the natural range of grizzly bears can be extensive, up
15 to three hundred square miles for females and five hundred square miles
16 for males (as reported in the brochure entitled "North Cascades Grizzly
17 Bear Outreach Project," which was printed and published with assistance
18 from the following contributors: The United States Fish and Wildlife
19 Service; the United States Forest Service; the National Park Service;

1 the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Interagency
2 Grizzly Bear Committee; the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance; and the
3 Defenders of Wildlife); and

4 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Washington desires to
5 protect its citizens from the many dangers and economic costs likely to
6 result from any augmentation, introduction, transplantation, or release
7 of grizzly bears near the border shared by the United States and the
8 Province of British Columbia; and

9 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Washington recognizes that
10 the laws of Washington, as determined by a Senate vote of 44 to 5 and
11 a vote of the House of Representatives of 96 to 0, clearly prohibit the
12 transport, transplantation, importation, or introduction of grizzly
13 bears into the State of Washington (RCW 77.12.035); and

14 WHEREAS, The laws of the State of Washington require the Washington
15 State Fish and Wildlife Commission to protect and encourage the natural
16 regeneration of native grizzly bear populations in suitable areas with
17 suitable habitat (RCW 77.12.035); and

18 WHEREAS, It is further our understanding that environmental
19 organizations from the United States have funded and encouraged British
20 Columbia's implementation of a grizzly bear release program near the
21 United States border in an attempt to gain defacto reintroduction or
22 augmentation of grizzly bears into the United States, thus depriving
23 our citizens of public notice and comment opportunities that the laws
24 of Washington State and the United States require prior to such a
25 release;

26 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the
27 Province of British Columbia refrain from releasing grizzly bears in
28 locations where the range of the released bear is likely to extend into
29 Washington State. If the Province of British Columbia determines that
30 the release of grizzly bears is necessary, the Legislature of the State
31 of Washington respectfully requests that British Columbia obtain,
32 record, and transmit, in a timely manner, DNA samples from each
33 released grizzly bear to the Director of the Washington State
34 Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Legislature of the State of
35 Washington also requests that British Columbia implant each released
36 grizzly bear with a microchip containing, at a minimum, the date and
37 location of original capture, the date and location of any release, and
38 DNA tracking information specific to that individual grizzly bear and

1 that this information, and documentation recording each of the actions
2 described above, be transmitted in a timely manner to the Director of
3 the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable Gordon Campbell, Premier of the Province
6 of British Columbia, Canada, the Honorable Joyce Murray, Minister of
7 Land, Water and Air Protection, Province of British Columbia, Canada,
8 and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada.

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