
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4039

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representative Kessler

Read first time 01/24/2006. Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

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 HOMELAND
5 SECURITY, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have the largest trading
10 relationship of any two countries in the world; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately one billion eight million dollars in two-way
12 trade crosses the Canadian-United States border on a daily basis; and

13 WHEREAS, There are approximately thirty-five million visits by
14 Canadians to the United States, with an impact of eleven billion
15 dollars on the economy of the United States, each year; and

16 WHEREAS, One in three jobs in Washington are dependent on
17 international trade; and

18 WHEREAS, Washington exported over four billion dollars in goods to
19 Canada in 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, The hosting of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic
2 Games by Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada will bring millions of
3 tourists to the region, with many of them visiting Washington as well;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, and its passport
6 requirements for persons entering the United States is scheduled to
7 begin December 31, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Many residents of the United States and Canada are not
9 fully aware of the requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel
10 Initiative; and

11 WHEREAS, Many families cannot afford the costs of obtaining
12 passports for all its members; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Real-ID Drivers' License Act has similar
14 provisions to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, but does not
15 take effect until January 2009;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
17 passport requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative be
18 delayed until January 1, 2009.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
21 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
22 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
23 Washington, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of
24 the State.

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