
ENGROSSED SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Rasmussen, Rockefeller, Weinstein, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Pridemore, Berkey, Doumit, McAuliffe, Franklin, Keiser, Regala, Fairley, Prentice, Jacobsen, Fraser and Haugen

Read first time 02/21/2005. Referred to Committee on International Trade & Economic Development.

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 UNITED STATES TRADE
5 REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR ROB PORTMAN:

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 trade liberalization efforts of the early 1990s and
10 trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and
11 the World Trade Organization Uruguay Round agreements have increased
12 the role of state policymakers in international trade decisions; and

13 WHEREAS, Trade liberalization has transformed the historical state-
14 federal division of power and taxed state agency resources in dealing
15 with the world marketplace; and

16 WHEREAS, Recent trade agreements have proceeded beyond discussion
17 of tariffs and quotas and now address government regulation, taxation,
18 procurement, and economic development policies that are implemented at
19 state and local levels; and

1 WHEREAS, States often lack a clearly defined institutional trade
2 policy structure, making it difficult to handle requests from trading
3 partners and federal agencies and to articulate a unified state stance
4 on trade issues; and

5 WHEREAS, International lawsuits may be brought against states and
6 governments found to be in violation of trade agreements; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a need for a stronger federal-state trade policy
8 consultation mechanism; and

9 WHEREAS, Many state and local executive, legislative, and judicial
10 branch officials have voiced the need for an informed, nonpartisan
11 trade policy dialogue on a national level; and

12 WHEREAS, Federal-state communication and cooperation in the
13 implementation of trade agreements is needed now more than ever before;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In August 2004, the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory
16 Committee, a state-appointed advisory committee to the United States
17 Trade Representative, recommended that a Federal-State International
18 Trade Policy Commission would be an ideal resource for objective trade
19 policy analysis and would foster communication among federal and state
20 trade policy officials; and

21 WHEREAS, The creation of a federal-state trade policy
22 infrastructure would assist states in understanding the scope of
23 federal trade efforts and would assist federal agencies in
24 understanding the various state trade processes;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the
26 United States Trade Representative create a Federal-State International
27 Trade Policy Commission with membership to be drawn from federal and
28 state trade policy officials.

29 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
30 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
31 States, the Ambassador Rob Portman, United States Trade Representative,
32 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
33 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
34 Washington.

--- END ---