
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators Hatfield and Haugen

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Ocean & Recreation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

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, In 2006 the voters passed Initiative No. 937, which set
10 targets for energy conservation and the use of eligible renewable
11 resources, including wind, by the state's large utilities; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2007 the Legislature adopted the goals of reducing
13 greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, reducing emissions to
14 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2035, and reducing emissions to 50
15 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

16 WHEREAS, During this time of economic uncertainty, the construction
17 and operation of wind and other alternative energy sites presents an
18 opportunity to bring new jobs and valuable economic opportunities to
19 Washington communities; and

1 WHEREAS, The increased use of wind and other alternative energy
2 resources produced in Washington will help move the state towards
3 energy independence, and help to decrease the billions of dollars
4 Washingtonians currently pay each year for imported fuel; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et
6 seq.) can pose significant challenges, including regulatory
7 uncertainty, for those seeking to develop wind and other alternative
8 energy projects in locations that could potentially impact any wildlife
9 listed as threatened or endangered; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, housed within
11 the United States Department of the Interior, is the agency with
12 primary responsibility for implementing and enforcing the federal
13 endangered species act;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
15 States Fish and Wildlife Service work cooperatively with the state's
16 regulatory agencies and energy producers to resolve these federal
17 endangered species act issues in a manner that allows the continued
18 development of Washington's wind and other alternative energy resources
19 while at the same time protecting threatened and endangered wildlife.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
22 States, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the President
23 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
25 Washington.

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