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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Regala, Rolfes, Shin, Nelson, Conway, Carrell, Swecker, Eide, Pridemore, Chase, Honeyford, Harper, and Ranker

Read first time 03/08/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

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 UNITED STATES  
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, Washington's maritime heritage is rich and diverse, and  
10 represented in numerous significant historic sites located on the  
11 shores of the Pacific Ocean, the inland Salish Sea, and Puget Sound;  
12 and

13            WHEREAS, Washington's maritime heritage continues to grow and  
14 develop in the context of our vibrant international trade economy; and

15            WHEREAS, Washington's maritime heritage reflects our region's  
16 historically key role as a crossroads of international exploration in  
17 the Pacific; and

18            WHEREAS, The preservation and protection of Washington's unique  
19 maritime heritage sites contribute significant economic, educational,  
20 and environmental value for all citizens; and

1       WHEREAS, The interpretation of Washington's maritime heritage sites  
2 is an important form of lifelong learning that contributes to  
3 understandings between cultures about our shared history; and

4       WHEREAS, Washington's maritime heritage is a major attraction for  
5 tourism, an important sector to Washington's economy; and

6       WHEREAS, A priority for the federal government is to increase  
7 international tourism to the United States; and

8       WHEREAS, Many citizens contribute their personal and professional  
9 time, effort, and resources to preserve, protect, and interpret  
10 Washington State's unique maritime heritage; and

11       WHEREAS, Numerous local jurisdictions, organizations, private  
12 citizens, and Tribes have expressed their support for the establishment  
13 of a nonregulatory National Maritime Heritage Area encompassing  
14 publicly owned lands that are located up to one-quarter mile inland  
15 from the shoreline in the counties of Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson,  
16 King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and  
17 Whatcom; and

18       WHEREAS, The State of Washington has invested resources in  
19 developing an application for this designation;

20       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
21 States Congress approve the designation of the marine waters and  
22 adjacent lands as described herein as a National Maritime Heritage Area  
23 and that the United States Department of the Interior is requested to  
24 expedite completion of a proposal to the United States Congress to  
25 achieve this designation.

26       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
27 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
28 States, the United States Department of the Interior, the President of  
29 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
30 and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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