
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senators Schlicher, Smith, Rolfes, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/15/13. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT 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, International visitors to the United States are spending
10 one hundred thirty-four billion four hundred million dollars annually
11 and supporting one million eight hundred thousand jobs; and

12 WHEREAS, The number of international visitors has remained flat
13 over the past decade; and

14 WHEREAS, Visa barriers make it difficult for not only leisure
15 travelers, but also for local businesses' international customers and
16 employees, foreign-owned companies located in Washington, and
17 international students; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States travel association has proposed
19 increasing international visitors through visa reforms concentrating on

1 Brazil, China, and India that would reduce visa wait times, extend visa
2 expiration periods, allow the use of video-conferencing technology, and
3 increase staffing; and

4 WHEREAS, With travel visa reforms, Washington has the opportunity
5 to be a top destination for travelers from these three countries due to
6 our geographic location and existing partnerships with Asian and South
7 American countries;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that congress
9 pass and the president sign legislation implementing the United States
10 travel association's visa reform recommendations.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
13 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of State, the
14 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
16 Washington.

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