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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Pearson, Hatfield, Hewitt, Chase, McAuliffe, and Dansel

1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, 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  
4            THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF  
5            THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION:

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

9            WHEREAS, The people of Washington recognize that the health of  
10           salmon and steelhead populations is vital to our biological and  
11           cultural heritage; and

12           WHEREAS, The salmon harvest contributes over one billion dollars  
13           annually to Washington's economy; and

14           WHEREAS, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife works  
15           with tribal governments and other partners to restore salmon and  
16           steelhead, provide recreational opportunities, and support  
17           economically viable and sustainable fisheries; and

18           WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has  
19           recognized Washington salmon and steelhead populations in the  
20           endangered species list under the endangered species act (16 U.S.C.  
21           Sec. 1531 et seq.); and

22           WHEREAS, Section 9 of the endangered species act prohibits the  
23           "take" of an endangered species absent the National Oceanic and

1 Atmospheric Administration fisheries' approval of hatchery and  
2 genetic management plans; and

3 WHEREAS, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has  
4 submitted over one hundred fifty statewide hatchery and genetic  
5 management plans for approval, including more than thirty-five Puget  
6 Sound hatchery and genetic management plans; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2004 and 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
8 Administration fisheries stated it would not approve Puget Sound  
9 hatchery and genetic management plans until it completed a regional  
10 environmental impact statement for Puget Sound hatcheries; and

11 WHEREAS, In July 2014, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
12 Administration fisheries released a Puget Sound hatcheries draft  
13 environmental impact statement; and

14 WHEREAS, Absent the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
15 Administration fisheries' approval of any Puget Sound hatchery and  
16 genetic management plans, our Puget Sound hatchery programs are  
17 operating without necessary permits under the endangered species act;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
19 Congress of the United States of America provide the National Oceanic  
20 and Atmospheric Administration fisheries sufficient resources to  
21 expedite review of Puget Sound hatchery and genetic management plans  
22 and that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
23 fisheries prioritize and conduct immediate review and approval of  
24 Puget Sound hatchery and genetic management plans.

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

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