
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Senators Pearson, Hatfield, Hewitt, Chase, McAuliffe, Dangel, and Warnick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/15.

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
19 Fisheries has designated certain Washington salmon and steelhead
20 populations as threatened or endangered under the endangered species
21 act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.); and

22 WHEREAS, The endangered species act and the National Oceanic and
23 Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' regulations prohibit the "take"

1 of endangered or threatened salmon and steelhead unless exempted by
2 appropriate action by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
3 Administration Fisheries; and

4 WHEREAS, The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has
5 submitted over one hundred fifty statewide hatchery and genetic
6 management plans for approval by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration Fisheries, and approval would exempt those hatchery
8 operations from the endangered species act "take" prohibition; and

9 WHEREAS, Among the over one hundred fifty hatchery and genetic
10 management plans submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
11 Administration Fisheries for approval, more than sixty were for
12 operations in the Puget Sound region; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14 Fisheries' review of Puget Sound hatchery and genetic management
15 plans requires consideration under the national environmental policy
16 act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) and the endangered species act to
17 approve these plans and provide appropriate protection from the
18 endangered species act "take" prohibition; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
20 Fisheries review of Puget Sound hatchery and genetic management plans
21 is ongoing and, given the volume of pending requests for review, will
22 likely take more than thirty months to complete;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
24 provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
25 sufficient resources to expedite its endangered species act and
26 national environmental policy act review of Puget Sound hatchery and
27 genetic management plans and that the National Oceanic and
28 Atmospheric Administration Fisheries prioritize and conduct immediate
29 review and approval of Puget Sound hatchery and genetic management
30 plans.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
33 States, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
34 Administration, the President of the United States Senate, the
35 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
36 from the State of Washington.

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