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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner, Brown, Honeyford, Angel, Benton, Schoesler, Parlette, Miloscia, Becker, Ericksen, Bailey, Warnick, Braun, Padden, Hewitt, and Dammeier

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

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 EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF  
4 WASHINGTON, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
5 STATE, AND TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND TO THE  
6 SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE:

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

10 WHEREAS, Washington state is the most trade dependent state in  
11 the country, and forty percent of all jobs in Washington state are  
12 tied to trade; and

13 WHEREAS, Puget Sound ports are the third largest container port  
14 gateway in North America; and

15 WHEREAS, The ports of Seattle and Tacoma generate over four  
16 billion dollars in economic activity each year, making them one of  
17 the largest economic sectors in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, the ports of Seattle and Tacoma have become highly  
19 congested, partially as a result of the stalled contract negotiations  
20 between the Pacific maritime association and the international  
21 longshore and warehouse union; and

22 WHEREAS, Washington state's agriculture industry has been hit  
23 hard by the congestion at the ports, which has caused apples to rot

1 and Christmas trees to wither while sitting in containers waiting to  
2 be shipped to overseas customers; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington state is home to some of the largest export  
4 manufacturers in the country, producing products that not only depend  
5 on ports to export their goods, but also depend on ports for a steady  
6 and dependable supply of import parts and materials; and

7 WHEREAS, All Washington state exporters are at risk of losing  
8 overseas customers to suppliers from other parts of the world,  
9 customers who were won by our exporters at great effort and expense;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
11 President, Executive Branch Agencies, and Congress take all steps  
12 necessary to assist the Pacific maritime association and the  
13 international longshore and warehouse union to reach a fair and  
14 equitable resolution of their negotiations and adopt a contract that  
15 will promote the competitiveness of Washington state ports.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
17 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
18 States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of  
20 Washington, the Secretary of the United States Department of State,  
21 the Attorney General, and the Secretary of the United States  
22 Department of Commerce.

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