

SENATE RESOLUTION

8695

By Senator Becker

1 WHEREAS, On July 30, 2016, in Olympia, upwards of 20,000 visitors
2 will enthusiastically welcome the arrival of more than 100 tribal
3 canoes as they conclude long distance journeys as participants in
4 this year's Tribal Canoe Journey, "2016 Paddle to Nisqually," hosted
5 by the Nisqually Tribe, whose homeland is south Puget Sound; and

6 WHEREAS, The canoes will represent approximately 60 tribes from
7 many locations in Washington, Alaska, and British Columbia, as well
8 as from other states and countries, and will arrive at the Port of
9 Olympia's NorthPoint near Swantown Marina in downtown Olympia; and

10 WHEREAS, Following their arrival in Olympia, the canoes will join
11 together in multiday cultural festivities until August 6th, which
12 festivities are open to the public, at the Nisqually Tribal community
13 at Olympia, halfway between Olympia and Yelm, in Thurston County; and

14 WHEREAS, The Tribal Canoe Journey, "2016 Paddle to Nisqually,"
15 represents a revival of traditional canoe culture fundamental to
16 traditional Native American life around Puget Sound, the Salish Sea,
17 the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Pacific Ocean, and other Pacific
18 Northwest marine waters, which frequently involved long journeys for
19 economic, social, and cultural purposes; and

20 WHEREAS, The Tribal Canoe Journeys have become a vital activity
21 for the revitalization of cultural expression to allow Native
22 American families to pass along their traditional way of life to
23 younger generations; and

1 WHEREAS, The inaugural Tribal Canoe Journey, "Paddle to Seattle,"
2 coincided with the 1989 State of Washington's Centennial Celebration
3 and brought 17 tribes together as a tribute to the Salish Seas tribal
4 canoe tradition and cultural heritage; and

5 WHEREAS, "2016 Paddle to Nisqually" is a community-building,
6 youth-focused, drug- and alcohol-free, waste-free event, with the
7 motto "Don't Forget the Water";

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate heartily welcome
9 to the state capitol the many tribal members and tribal paddlers,
10 support teams, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of enthusiastic
11 visitors who will participate in the Tribal Canoe Journey, "2016
12 Paddle to Nisqually" historic gathering; and

13 BE IT FURTHER, That the Senate congratulate the Nisqually Tribe
14 for its leadership in organizing and hosting the Canoe Journey, "2016
15 Paddle to Nisqually" event, and further express its appreciation to
16 the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, Thurston County, and
17 hundreds of volunteers for their active support of this historic
18 event; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate express its admiration
20 for the personal fitness and endurance of the tribal paddlers, many
21 of whom will have paddled for hundreds of miles to arrive in Olympia;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
24 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
25 Nisqually Tribe, the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, and
26 Thurston County.

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