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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4020

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Muri, Ryu, and Kilduff

Read first time 01/26/18. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, 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 HONORABLE RYAN  
5 ZINKE, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

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 Steilacoom tribe has continued to be recognized as  
10 an organized tribe since before the signing of the Medicine Creek  
11 Treaty of 1854; and

12 WHEREAS, The Steilacoom tribe was identified as a nation by the  
13 United States government to negotiate and to sign the Medicine Creek  
14 Treaty on December 26, 1854; and

15 WHEREAS, The Medicine Creek Treaty was ratified by the United  
16 States of America in 1855, establishing a trust relationship between  
17 the two nations, and there has never been an act of congress to  
18 abrogate this contractual relationship; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1856 the Steilacoom tribe participated in the Fox  
20 Island council to negotiate an end to territorial war and present the  
21 interests of all Puget Sound area tribes; and

22 WHEREAS, The interests of the Steilacoom tribe were supported by  
23 all tribes represented at the Fox Island council, including the

1 necessity of maintaining a separate reservation in the aboriginal  
2 territory; and

3 WHEREAS, The Steilacoom tribe participated in the United States  
4 court of claims cases held by the Indian Claims Commission, and in  
5 1974 the findings of fact provided that the Steilacoom tribe was to  
6 be compensated for their aboriginal rights; and

7 WHEREAS, No person, agency, or government has the right to  
8 deprive a people of their heritage, and all people have a natural  
9 right to their customs, culture, and ancestry;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
11 federal government of the United States acknowledge the Steilacoom  
12 tribe, conferring upon them the same rights, recognition, and  
13 privileges as those tribes now recognized by the United States  
14 government.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
16 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
17 States, the Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, the  
18 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
20 Washington.

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