

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4638, by Representatives Tarleton and Frame

1 WHEREAS, In 1906, under the command of Hiram M. Chittenden, the
2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated preliminary planning for
3 construction of a navigable connection to transport logs, milled
4 lumber, and fishing vessels between Lake Washington and the Puget
5 Sound; and

6 WHEREAS, In early 1909, the Washington State legislature
7 appropriated \$250,000 to excavate the canal between Lake Union and
8 Lake Washington; and

9 WHEREAS, In June 1910, on the condition that all other canals
10 along the route be paid for locally, the U.S. Congress gave its
11 approval for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct the
12 Ballard Locks; and

13 WHEREAS, Construction of the Ballard Locks commenced in 1911,
14 connecting Salmon Bay to Shilshole Bay; and

15 WHEREAS, In July 1912, the Ballard Locks' gates closed for the
16 first time, turning Salmon Bay from saltwater to freshwater; and

17 WHEREAS, On August 3, 1916, the first boat passed through the
18 Ballard Locks; and

19 WHEREAS, In order to allow for the intended boat traffic, three
20 existing bridges were removed along the ship canal route at Latona
21 Avenue, Fremont Avenue, and Stone Way; and

1 WHEREAS, The newly constructed Ballard and Fremont Bridges were
2 completed in 1917, followed by the University Bridge in 1919, and the
3 Montlake Bridge in 1925; and

4 WHEREAS, The Lake Washington Ship Canal Project was declared
5 completed in 1934; and

6 WHEREAS, Since its official opening on July 4, 1917, the Ballard
7 Locks have continued to serve the city of Seattle and the Puget Sound
8 region as a critical transportation corridor for commercial fishing
9 and seafood processing vessels, tugs, barges, and recreational boats;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Corps of Engineers also built a fish ladder at the
12 Locks to allow salmon returning to spawning grounds to pass around
13 the locks and dam; and

14 WHEREAS, The fish ladder was reconstructed in 1976 to improve
15 water flow and fish passage and to create an underground viewing
16 window for visitors to watch the returning salmon; and

17 WHEREAS, The nation's largest commercial fishing fleet, the North
18 Pacific Fishing Fleet, is homeported on Salmon Bay at Port of
19 Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal; and the Fleet goes to sea and returns
20 home through the Ballard Locks; and

21 WHEREAS, Because the Ballard Locks and the Lake Washington Ship
22 Canal provide access to Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean, some of
23 the nation's largest seafood processing vessels are based on the
24 north end of Lake Union; and

25 WHEREAS, Averaging 50,000 vessels each year, the Ballard Locks
26 carry more boat traffic annually than any other lock in the United
27 States; and

28 WHEREAS, Together with the Fish Ladder and the Carl S. English
29 Jr. Botanical Gardens, the Ballard Locks attract more than 1.2
30 million visitors annually, making it one of the most popular tourist
31 attractions in the city of Seattle and in Washington State; and

32 WHEREAS, The Ballard Locks have connected the salt waters of
33 Puget Sound to Seattle's freshwater bays and lakes for 100 years,
34 allowing the maritime and fishing industries to remain a core part of
35 Seattle's economy and way of life;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
37 celebrate the Centennial birthday for the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks
38 on July 4, 2017; extend recognition of, and appreciation for, the
39 impact that the Ballard Locks have had on Seattle's way of life; and

1 hope that these working locks will contribute to a better quality of
2 life for all future generations.

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