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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 02/06/17. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD 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 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 Donald Trump, 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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