

**8014 AMH RDAN H5082.3**

**SJM 8014** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources

1 Beginning on page 1, line 11, strike all material through  
2 "Resources." on page 3, line 11, and insert the following:

3 "WHEREAS, The Skagit River watershed is shared by British  
4 Columbia and the state of Washington, with the headwaters high in the  
5 mountains of the province where the watershed north of the border  
6 supplies thirty percent of the waters flowing into the Salish Sea;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Skagit headwaters provide enormous environmental  
9 resource values to the whole watershed and the Pacific Northwest,  
10 including habitat for wildlife such as the grizzly bear, and spawning  
11 habitat for the endangered bull trout; and

12 WHEREAS, The state of Washington and the province of British  
13 Columbia both have roles to play in conserving the valuable resources  
14 and habitat in the Skagit River Watershed; and

15 WHEREAS, That concurrently with the United States and Canada High  
16 Ross Treaty in 1984, the province and the city of Seattle entered an  
17 agreement to enhance the recreational and environmental opportunities  
18 within the watershed on both sides of the border, and created the  
19 Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission to work toward these  
20 objectives; and

21 WHEREAS, The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission is led by  
22 four commissioners appointed by the province and four commissioners  
23 appointed by the city of Seattle; and

24 WHEREAS, Among the purposes of the Skagit Environmental Endowment  
25 Commission is to seek the acquisition of mineral or timber rights  
26 consistent with conservation and recreational purposes, including the  
27 area of the "donut hole," lying between two parks created by the  
28 province to protect the upper watershed's conservation and  
29 recreational resources; and

30 WHEREAS, The potential of copper mining waste runoff poses severe  
31 danger to fish populations throughout the Skagit River, which  
32 supports the largest populations of threatened steelhead and Chinook  
33 salmon in the United States portion of the Salish Sea; and

1           WHEREAS, The company holding the mineral claims has a record of  
2 noncompliance with mine discharge standards; and

3           WHEREAS, The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission seeks to  
4 acquire the mineral claims in order to ensure the permanent  
5 conservation of the upper Skagit watershed; and

6           WHEREAS, Numerous First Nations, tribes in the United States, the  
7 city of Seattle, and numerous conservation organizations have opposed  
8 the threat to the upper watershed's conservation and recreational  
9 values posed by mining in the donut hole; and

10          WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that mining is one of several  
11 activities that take place on both sides of the Canada - United  
12 States Border that potentially impact water quality and the health  
13 and recovery of salmon populations;

14          NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
15 province work with the city of Seattle, tribes and First Nations, and  
16 the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission to prevent mining in  
17 the donut hole of the upper Skagit watershed, in order to ensure that  
18 the area's environmental and recreational resources are permanently  
19 protected.

20          BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable John Horgan, Premier of the province of  
22 British Columbia, to the Honorable Dr. Darryl Plecas, Speaker of the  
23 British Columbia Legislative Assembly, to the Honorable Doug  
24 Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
25 and Rural Development, to the Honorable George Heyman, Minister of  
26 Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and to the Honorable  
27 Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources."

EFFECT: Removes references to logging activities in the "donut  
hole."

Identifies that mining is not the only activity that impacts  
salmon and water quality, and that Washington also has a role to play  
in conserving resources in the Skagit Watershed.

Removes a reference to the Mount Polley mine waste spill near  
Williams Lake in 2014.

Requests that British Columbia work with First Nations and  
Tribes, in addition to the City of Seattle and Skagit Environmental  
Endowment Commission, to work to prevent mining in the "donut hole."

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