
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Takko, Van De Wege, Mullet, Saldaña, Lias, Randall, Kuderer, Billig, Hunt, Wilson, C., Nguyen, Dhingra, Palumbo, Lovelett, Conway, Pedersen, Carlyle, Cleveland, Rolfes, Keiser, Hobbs, Darneille, McCoy, Das, Wellman, Hasegawa, Salomon, and Frockt

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:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Washington state is the most trade dependent state in
9 the Union, with forty percent of its jobs tied to trade, and the
10 highest export value per capita in the nation (six thousand dollars
11 per capita); and

12 WHEREAS, Washington state in 2017 exported about 77 billion
13 dollars in Washington-made goods, with tens of billions of dollars of
14 goods made in other states that are transported through Washington
15 for export overseas; and

16 WHEREAS, Washington state's agricultural economy is the backbone
17 of many of the rural portions of the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Its export of agricultural products to China has been
19 severely harmed by the retaliatory tariffs imposed in the growing
20 trade conflicts with that country, with a total potential risk to
21 Washington state exports of 1 billion dollars (2017 values), and
22 commodity-specific impacts as follows:

1 (1) Cherries. China was the number one market for Washington
2 cherries in 2017, with exports of nearly 100 million dollars, and
3 with a total tariff of forty percent now in effect the industry
4 expects the China market to be completely closed in 2019;

5 (2) Apples. Apple exports to China are down sixty-seven percent
6 for the third quarter of 2018, under a total tariff of fifty percent,
7 and the state's apple commission estimated that sales overseas are
8 down twenty-eight percent, with losses of 130 million dollars due to
9 increased tariffs;

10 (3) Seafood. China is the number two market for Washington
11 seafood, importing over 154 million dollars in 2017, and with China's
12 retaliatory tariffs the exports declined forty percent in the third
13 quarter of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017;

14 (4) Wheat. Wheat exports to China have completely ceased since
15 May 2018. Previously ninety percent of the state's wheat has gone to
16 China, with state's wheat farmers supporting over eight thousand
17 jobs, and wheat exports from the state (grown in Washington and in
18 other states) had totaled 66 million dollars in the third quarter of
19 2017;

20 (5) Dairy. Washington's dairy industry exports to China are down
21 seventy-three percent in the third quarter of 2018 compared to 2017,
22 with the imposition of China's retaliatory tariffs; and

23 (6) Soybeans. China's imposed twenty-eight percent tariff on
24 soybeans has led to a ninety-one percent decrease in soybean exports
25 from the Puget Sound area; and

26 WHEREAS, These reduced exports of Washington's agricultural
27 production has impacts throughout the state's economy and
28 communities, being felt from the farms to the ports that handle these
29 commodities, from far Eastern Washington to the shipping areas on the
30 Pacific Coast; and

31 WHEREAS, A suspension by the United States and China of some of
32 the additional tariffs until March 1st has provided an opportunity
33 for the two countries to resolve trade differences in a manner that
34 may restore the fair competition of Washington state's agricultural
35 production with other countries;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
37 United States Congress pass, and the President of the United States
38 work with China to achieve an additional minimum nine month
39 suspension of all tariffs imposed since the beginning of 2018, and
40 further work toward a long-term trade agreement that will provide for

1 fair access of Washington's and other states' agricultural
2 commodities to China and other markets largely closed due to recent
3 tariffs.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United
6 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State
8 of Washington.

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