
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers, Warnick, Short, and Wagoner

Read first time 02/02/21. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO
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, Pinniped predation is a significant threat to already
10 critically endangered and threatened salmon stocks in Washington and
11 throughout the Pacific Northwest; and

12 WHEREAS, Although pinniped populations were once near depletion,
13 these species have dramatically rebounded in recent decades; and

14 WHEREAS, Congress adopted changes to the Marine Mammal Protection
15 Act in 2018 to modify the process for the removal of sea lions in
16 certain portions of the Columbia River and its tributaries; and

17 WHEREAS, Enacting similar changes to the Marine Mammal Protection
18 Act for pinniped management in Puget Sound would protect salmon
19 populations listed under the Endangered Species Act;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
21 further amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the lethal
22 removal of pinnipeds in Puget Sound similar to the recent changes
23 authorized in the Columbia River to protect salmon populations by:

1 (1) Allowing the state and treaty tribes to remove pinnipeds in
2 freshwater river systems and estuaries where there are federally
3 listed salmonids up to the take limits provided under the marine
4 mammal protection act;

5 (2) Requiring the National Marine Fisheries Service to process a
6 specific permit application for a watershed by a state or treaty
7 tribe within six months of receipt;

8 (3) Eliminating the requirement of the National Environmental
9 Policy Act for the National Marine Fisheries Service to assess a
10 state or tribal application to remove pinnipeds.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the
13 United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
14 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House
15 of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
16 Washington.

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