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**Senate Joint Memorial 8022**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By Fairley, Swecker, Pridemore, Roach, McDermott, Kline, and Kohl-Welles**

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, 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 THE  
4 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, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, It has become obvious that the manner and method by which  
9 presidential nominees are selected in the fifty sovereign states of  
10 this federal union could benefit from a new method; and

11 WHEREAS, A regional presidential primary system would end the  
12 current practice of states trying to "front load" the presidential  
13 primary calendar; and

14 WHEREAS, Such a plan would allow the selection of national  
15 convention delegates to be grouped by region beginning in 2012 with the  
16 West in March followed by the Midwest in April, the South in May, and  
17 the East in June; and

18 WHEREAS, A regional primary could be rotated among the regions with  
19 the Midwest moving to first, followed by the South, East, and West in  
20 the 2016 election; and

1       WHEREAS, Provisions could be established to assure that two states  
2 with smaller populations could always have a chance to conduct a  
3 presidential primary before the regional primaries occurred; and

4       WHEREAS, Possible regional groupings to start the rotating regional  
5 primary system in the 2012 presidential election could be as follows:

6       West:     Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho,  
7 Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and  
8 Guam.

9       Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,  
10 Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

11       South:   Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,  
12 Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee,  
13 Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

14       East:     Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New  
15 Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia,  
16 and the District of Columbia; and

17       WHEREAS, Recognizing the historically important role that smaller  
18 states have played in the presidential election process, the states of  
19 New Hampshire and Iowa would be allowed to conduct their primary  
20 election or caucus before the start of the rotation schedule;

21       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
22 States Congress, without delay, provide for a rotating regional  
23 presidential primary system in 2012.

24       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
25 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
26 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
27 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
28 Washington.

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