

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4650, by Representative Lekanoff

1 WHEREAS, Former Representative and Senator Mark L. Doumit was a
2 native of Wahkiakum County who spent 18 years in elected office
3 serving the communities and citizens of Wahkiakum County, southwest
4 Washington, and the State of Washington; and

5 WHEREAS, He was a proud graduate of Wahkiakum High School in
6 Cathlamet, Washington in 1980, where he wrestled and played baseball,
7 and later attended Lower Columbia College in Longview; and

8 WHEREAS, He began his career of service to his community as a
9 volunteer firefighter and EMT in Cathlamet starting at age 16; and

10 WHEREAS, While still in high school, he began a lifelong career
11 in the commercial salmon fishing industry, starting out as crew for
12 his cousin Milt Doumit's fish buying business, then later as a
13 commercial fisherman himself on the Columbia River; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1984 he earned his bachelor's degree in international
15 business at Washington State University, including a study abroad at
16 the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, affording him the opportunity
17 to travel around Cold War-era Europe; and

18 WHEREAS, While still in college, he began a 40-year career in
19 Alaska's commercial fishing industry, starting out as a summer
20 cannery worker and fishing vessel crew in Bristol Bay and Prince
21 William Sound, then later purchasing and operating his own salmon
22 drift gillnet fishing vessel Cook Inlet, Alaska in 1986 where he
23 spent the remainder of his Alaska fishing career every summer working

1 alongside family and friends such as his sons, his brothers Paul and
2 Matt, and friends Gordie Souvenir and Fred Ostling; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1992, Mark, along with his brother John, purchased a
4 cattle ranch in Cathlamet, which they later converted into Doumit
5 Tree Farm after realizing that trees do not jump fences nor mind the
6 rain as much as cattle do; and

7 WHEREAS, Mark retained Doumit Tree Farm until his passing,
8 learning how to manage forests for both economic benefit and other
9 values like wildlife habitat, built relationships with others in the
10 forestry industry, and eventually followed in his father's footsteps
11 to protect the land by selling some of it for conservation purposes;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mark's experiences in the fishing industry on the
14 Columbia River and Alaska, cattle ranching, and tree farming gave him
15 a deep appreciation and respect for our state's and country's natural
16 resources, communities dependent on natural resources, people working
17 in natural resources industries, and Washington's tribes whose
18 history and culture is intimately tied to the land and water; and

19 WHEREAS, Mark ran for and was elected as a Wahkiakum County
20 Commissioner in 1988 where he served until 1996, including helping to
21 organize the county's response to the Inauguration Day Storm; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1996, Mark ran for and was elected to the Washington
23 House of Representatives where he served until 2002; and

24 WHEREAS, While a member of the House, Mark served as Chair of the
25 House Natural Resources Committee, where he was the driving force
26 behind the transformative Forest & Fish Law in 1999, which improved
27 forest practices and habitat for the benefit of both forestry
28 industries and endangered salmon runs on more than 9 million acres of
29 state and private forests and 60,000 miles of streams in Washington;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, While a member of the House, Mark also served on the
32 House Appropriations Committee where he helped negotiate state
33 budgets and was regarded as a trusted voice on budget matters by both
34 Democratic and Republican caucuses; and

35 WHEREAS, In 2002, he was appointed to succeed his friend and
36 mentor Senator Sid Snyder in the Washington State Senate, where Mark
37 served until 2006; and

38 WHEREAS, While a member of the Senate, Mark chaired the Senate
39 Natural Resources Committee and served as vice chair of the Senate
40 Ways & Means Committee where he continued to advocate for natural

1 resources, natural resources-dependent industries and communities,
2 and continued to be a respected voice on state budget matters; and

3 WHEREAS, While serving in the Legislature, Mark was widely
4 respected by his fellow legislators, legislative staff, and the
5 larger legislative community and earned a reputation for
6 bipartisanship, integrity, kindness, a keen sense of humor,
7 intelligence, strategic thinking, and grit, as well as someone who
8 was hard to keep off the dance floor at the Governor's Inaugural
9 Ball; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2006, Mark left legislative service to become a full-
11 time advocate for working forests as Executive Director of the
12 Washington Forest Protection Association in Olympia until his
13 passing; and

14 WHEREAS, Mark continued advocating for natural resources
15 communities in Olympia, and worked to recognize the importance of
16 Washington's forestry industries in salmon recovery, combatting
17 climate change, and preventing wildfire, and working to pass new
18 funding for forest restoration and wildfire prevention; and

19 WHEREAS, Mark also continued to build relationships within the
20 legislative community and promote collaboration between the forestry
21 industry, Washington's tribes, and environmental interests in meeting
22 natural resources challenges; and

23 WHEREAS, Even on the day of his passing, he was optimistic about
24 the future of Washington's natural resources, excited to continue his
25 work at WFPA, and looked forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic
26 so that people could once again safely and effectively engage and
27 build relationships to solve pressing issues; and

28 WHEREAS, Mark cherished the privilege of representing his
29 community in the Legislature and representing the people working in
30 the state's natural resources industries; and

31 WHEREAS, Mark passed away on June 21, 2021, at the age of 59, but
32 his legacy lives on through his family, friends, colleagues, and
33 record of service to the people of Washington; and

34 WHEREAS, Mark is survived by his wife Mindy; three sons Matthew,
35 Benjamin, and David and their spouses Denise, Charleeann, and Molli;
36 his three grandchildren Huntleigh, Eliana, and Hudson; brothers John,
37 James, Thomas, Patrick, and Matthew, sisters Anne and Helen; and many
38 loving friends and extended family;

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
40 of Representatives honor former Representative and Senator Mark

1 Doumit and further his dedication and service to the citizens of
2 Washington State.

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