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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Llias, Wagoner, Hobbs, Becker, Saldaña, Wellman, Wilson, C., and Zeiger)

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, The United States is home to more than ten percent of  
9 the world's known active and potentially active volcanoes, most of  
10 which are currently under-monitored or not monitored at all by  
11 volcanologists, geologists, hydrologists, and other scientists; and

12 WHEREAS, Previous volcanic eruptions have demonstrated that  
13 unanticipated eruptions constitute major disasters, including severe  
14 loss of life, damage to property, and interruption of regular trade,  
15 shipping, and economic activity; and

16 WHEREAS, It has been shown that state-of-the-art monitoring  
17 equipment on active volcanoes can give scientists enough warning to  
18 notify officials and to provide for evacuations of at-risk areas,  
19 sparing residents injury or death, such as in the case of the  
20 eruption of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii in 2018, which destroyed  
21 over seven hundred homes but led to zero deaths as a result of a  
22 timely evacuation order; and

1       WHEREAS, The 2018 update to the United States Geological Survey  
2 National Volcanic Threat Assessment identifies over one hundred sixty  
3 active or potentially active volcanoes, identifying eighteen  
4 volcanoes as high risk; and

5       WHEREAS, A majority of the high-risk volcanoes identified lie in  
6 the Cascade range spanning Washington, Oregon, and Northern  
7 California; and

8       WHEREAS, Many volcanoes in the Cascades of Oregon and Washington  
9 have few, if any, direct monitoring, which poses a severe threat to  
10 human life in both states; and

11       WHEREAS, The installation of volcano monitoring equipment can be  
12 undertaken with minimal impact on protected wilderness areas, due to  
13 the size and design of the equipment; and

14       WHEREAS, In March 2019, the 116th Congress passed the John D.  
15 Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which was then  
16 signed into law by the President, which established the National  
17 Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act and appropriates  
18 approximately fifty-five million dollars over the five-year period  
19 between 2019-2023 for the express purpose of installing and upgrading  
20 monitoring systems at United States volcano observatories,  
21 commensurate with the threat to human activity posed by various  
22 volcanoes;

23       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge Congress to  
24 mandate that the United States Geological Survey submit a five-year  
25 management plan for the use of these funds in areas of high need,  
26 such as the Cascades, and establish a committee to implement them as  
27 soon as possible; and to approve the submitted plan within a  
28 reasonable time frame so that preventable loss of life, property, and  
29 shelter can be avoided to the fullest extent possible in the event of  
30 future eruptions.

31       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United  
33 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
34 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State  
35 of Washington.

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