

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, tourism is at the heart of America's economic security, generating millions of jobs and billions in taxes, and is a vital resource in improving America's image around the world; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of America's largest service exports, providing a travel trade surplus in excess of \$8 billion. It is one of the nation's largest employers, accounting for more than 7.5 million direct travel-generated jobs; and

WHEREAS, in Washington last year, the performance of the tourism industry exceeded the U.S. industry average. Direct visitor spending in Washington was estimated to be \$14.8 billion, up 6.8 percent over the previous year, generating state and local tax revenues estimated at \$975 million, and directly supporting 149,800 state jobs with earnings of \$4.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, tourism contributes significantly to Washington's cultural and social well-being. Travel is one of our most fundamental freedoms. Every citizen benefits from travel and tourism. The travel industry enhances our personal growth and education, while promoting intercultural understanding and appreciation of Washington history, geography, and culture; and

WHEREAS, May 10-18, 2008, is National Tourism Week, encouraging all citizens to *Discover Great American Traditions*;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 10-18, 2008, as

TOURISM WEEK

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 30th day of April, 2008

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

