

2 SHB 1891 - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Agriculture & International Trade

4 ADOPTED 04/09/01

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
6 following:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the growing and  
8 processing of food and agricultural products is the dominant industry  
9 in Washington state and a major employer in rural Washington. The  
10 legislature also finds that agriculture is a critical component of  
11 Washington's international trade industry, accounting for billions of  
12 dollars in exports every year.

13 The legislature further finds that the export market for  
14 Washington's agricultural products has dropped significantly in recent  
15 years and that such a drop has negatively impacted the economy in  
16 Washington's agricultural regions. Therefore, it is the intent of the  
17 legislature to enhance Washington's international trade of agricultural  
18 products by increasing funding for the Washington state department of  
19 agriculture's international marketing program in an effort to promote  
20 marketing of Washington's products and to assist the agricultural  
21 industry in efforts to reduce trade barriers that stand in the way of  
22 trade in new and emerging markets.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.23 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25 There is created a market development and promotion matching fund  
26 program within the Washington state department of agriculture. The  
27 purpose of the program is to allow the department of agriculture and  
28 the agricultural industry to combine funds in order to enhance access  
29 to markets that are growth sales areas for the industry's product. The  
30 goal of the program is to expose buyers to Washington's diverse  
31 agricultural products. The agriculture industry may bring in buying  
32 missions, perform trade promotions in various markets, hire overseas  
33 contractors, and perform other marketing functions that help it target  
34 the correct buyer and market for its product.

