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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Senators Hayner and Jesernig.

Read first time February 7, 1991. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 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, Chemicals and materials that may pose a threat to the  
9 environment and public health and safety are an everyday and  
10 indispensable part of our lives; and

11           WHEREAS, Fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency  
12 response personnel are potentially exposed to hazardous materials on a  
13 daily basis; and

14           WHEREAS, New federal requirements under the Occupational Safety and  
15 Health Administration require hazardous materials emergency response  
16 training for several occupational groups; and

1       WHEREAS, These occupational groups include law enforcement  
2 agencies, fire departments, emergency medical organizations, emergency  
3 management personnel, United States Department of Energy (USDOE)  
4 Patrol, USDOE fire departments, USDOE emergency medical personnel,  
5 USDOE emergency management; and

6       WHEREAS, In addition to the groups for which training is required,  
7 the need exists for other emergency response groups to obtain  
8 comprehensive training related to hazardous materials response; and

9       WHEREAS, Currently there is not a facility with the resources to  
10 provide adequate training required by federal and state law, especially  
11 as training relates to a realistic simulation of credible hazardous  
12 material accidents; and

13       WHEREAS, The Hanford site would be an ideal site for a Hazardous  
14 Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) training center;  
15 and

16       WHEREAS, The Hanford site contains an ample amount of federally  
17 owned isolated land with a mild climate; and

18       WHEREAS, The Hanford site provides the advantage of a base of  
19 extensive technical expertise and training expertise as well as the  
20 existence of strong local and political support for enhancing hazardous  
21 materials response; and

22       WHEREAS, A HAMMER training facility is consistent with the current  
23 site mission and could serve as the perfect program as Hanford becomes  
24 the USDOE flagship for site cleanup and environmental restoration  
25 activities; and

26       WHEREAS, A HAMMER facility would produce a plethora of benefits to  
27 the Hanford site, the local USDOE response agencies, local emergency  
28 response entities, and hazardous materials response units throughout  
29 the state of Washington; and

1           WHEREAS, A HAMMER facility could serve as a national resource for  
2 hazardous materials response training combining realistic field  
3 training with thorough and consistent classroom training;

4           NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
5 States Congress support and fund legislation that would create a  
6 Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response training center  
7 at the Hanford reservation.

8           BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
9 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
10 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
11 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
12 Washington.