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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4025

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Wineberry, Conway, Thibaudeau, Leonard, Patterson, Romero, King, Karahalios, Eide, Brown, Linville, Flemming, Jones, G. Cole, Shin, Hansen, Dunshee, Chappell, Veloria, Anderson, H. Myers, Jacobsen, Orr, Ogden, Ludwig, Johanson, Springer, Dellwo, Campbell, J. Kohl, Pruitt and Appelwick

Read first time 5-5-93.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, 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, The United States is currently involved in efforts to  
9 rewrite international trade rules under the auspices of the General  
10 Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade  
11 Agreement; and

12 WHEREAS, International trade agreements can provide benefit to the  
13 people of the United States and Washington state, if those agreements  
14 are properly structured and then negotiated; and

15 WHEREAS, Mexico and less industrialized countries, that comprise  
16 over half the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiating  
17 nations, have significantly different standards of living than the  
18 United States, often having three dollar per day wages or less, limited  
19 educational opportunities, unprotected child labor, no worker rights,  
20 reckless use of pesticides and chemicals long since outlawed in the  
21 United States, highly toxic substances routinely dumped into rivers,

1 undrinkable waters, and little sanitation or adequate sewer systems;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, These discrepancies lend to dramatic differences in the  
4 cost of doing business and leave the United States at a competitive  
5 disadvantage; and

6 WHEREAS, Agriculture and industry in the United States and  
7 Washington state are competitive in the world economy on a fair and  
8 level playing field but the current General Agreement on Tariffs and  
9 Trade and North American Free Trade Agreement proposals move us in the  
10 wrong direction; and

11 WHEREAS, Current procedures strip the United States Congress of  
12 authority to amend or modify final General Agreement on Tariffs and  
13 Trade and North American Free Trade Agreement agreements, leaving  
14 Congress with only a "yes" or "no" fast-track vote;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
16 Congressional Delegation of the State of Washington and all members of  
17 Congress inform the President and the Office of the United States Trade  
18 Representative that they will not approve any legislation to implement  
19 a trade agreement that: (1) Jeopardizes the existing United States  
20 standard of living, the labor, health, safety, or environmental laws,  
21 regulations, and other standards; and the workplace and civil  
22 protection of all United States citizens; or (2) limits the ability of  
23 Congress or local and state governments to adopt laws to protect the  
24 health and safety of their people, their working conditions, domestic  
25 food supplies, and the environment.

26 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
27 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
28 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
29 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
30 Washington.

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