
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Bluechel, Snyder, Sellar, Skratek, M.
Rasmussen, Erwin, Gaspard, Fraser, McDonald, Franklin, Winsley and Oke)

Read first time 03/01/93.

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, AND TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM, AND
5 TO THE SPEAKER OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE, AND TO THE GUAM DELEGATE TO
6 CONGRESS:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, The cause of democracy around the world is the cause of
11 the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States extends self-determination especially to
13 those peoples in territories under its jurisdiction; and

14 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature supports the efforts of
15 each United States territory to attain the political status best suited
16 to its people; and

17 WHEREAS, Guam became a territory of the United States in the last
18 century without its people being given the opportunity to freely choose
19 a political status; and

20 WHEREAS, Guam became an organized territory of the United States in
21 1950 with the signing of the Organic Act; and

1 WHEREAS, During the past two decades, neighbor island groups in the
2 former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have successfully
3 negotiated new political status arrangements with the United States,
4 which have resulted in the formation of the Commonwealth of the
5 Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Belau, the Republic of the
6 Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia; and

7 WHEREAS, The people of Guam chose by plebiscite in 1976 the
8 political status of commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, After extensive public debate, the people of Guam ratified
10 the draft Guam Commonwealth Act in 1987; and

11 WHEREAS, The Guam Commonwealth Act will be debated in the United
12 States Congress; and

13 WHEREAS, The people of Guam are United States citizens and should
14 be given all the rights of citizens under the United States
15 Constitution; and

16 WHEREAS, Guam seeks to establish through commonwealth status a just
17 political relationship between its people and the United States
18 government; and

19 WHEREAS, Commonwealth status would provide for the rights of the
20 people of Guam in areas of vital interest, including land use,
21 immigration, taxation, and the applicability of federal laws
22 constraining Guam development; and

23 WHEREAS, There is growing national support for commonwealth status
24 for Guam, including policy statements and resolutions from members of
25 Congress, the federal administration, the National Governors
26 Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Western
27 Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, and the
28 United States Conference of Mayors; and

29 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature supports the efforts of
30 the people of Guam to achieve commonwealth status within a just and
31 permanent relationship with the United States;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
33 States government allow the people of Guam to determine their own
34 political, social, and economic future.

35 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
36 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
37 States, the Governor of Guam, the Speaker of the Guam Legislature, the
38 Guam delegate to Congress, the President of the United States Senate,

1 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
2 Congress from the State of Washington.

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