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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Bluechel, Snyder, Sellar, Skratek, M. Rasmussen, Erwin, Gaspard, Fraser, McDonald, Franklin, Winsley and Oke

Read first time 02/02/93. Referred to Committee on Trade, Technology & Economic Development.

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 has been introduced in the  
12 United 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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