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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4016

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Hankins, Honeyford, Delvin, Grant, Blanton, Ebersole, Lisk, Cairnes, Mastin, Sheahan, Chandler, Robertson, Schoesler and Mulliken

Read first time 02/03/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

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 UNITED STATES  
5 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY;

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

9 WHEREAS, The Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and the  
10 lands north of the Columbia River at the Hanford site are no longer  
11 necessary for Department of Energy purposes; and

12 WHEREAS, These sites have provided a unique opportunity, due to  
13 their relatively undisturbed environments over the past several  
14 centuries, for researchers such as Dick Fitzner and Les Eberhardt, for  
15 whom the Reserve was named, to document: A naturally functioning  
16 shrub-steppe ecosystem; the sensitive wildlife species such as elk,  
17 deer, eagles, salmon, waterfowl, and raptorial birds that live there;  
18 and how the ecosystem can change over time; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the past thirty years this research has allowed an  
20 understanding of baseline conditions needed to design mitigation and  
21 restoration efforts for natural communities; and

1       WHEREAS, The sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass community, the native  
2 vegetation of these areas, is the state of Washington's seconmost  
3 endangered ecosystem; and

4       WHEREAS, Since 1967, when the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve lands were  
5 set aside, it has been intended that these areas be used "to preserve  
6 shrub-steppe habitat and vegetation" through ecological research and  
7 education;

8       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
9 Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and the lands north of the  
10 Columbia River at the Hanford site be placed in custody of the State of  
11 Washington, to be managed by the State to preserve the lands'  
12 ecological system for research and education.

13       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
14 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
15 States, the United States Department of Energy, the President of the  
16 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
17 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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