
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4026

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Hankins, Delvin, Lisk, Mastin, Grant and Honeyford

Read first time 02/21/95. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

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 SECRETARY OF THE
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 federal government, in an effort to protect the
10 national security of the United States, established the Hanford site in
11 Central Washington in 1943; and

12 WHEREAS, During the course of the past five decades, many
13 dangerous, toxic, and nuclear wastes were disposed of or stored at the
14 site; and

15 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of the volume of nuclear waste in the entire
16 United States is stored at Hanford; and

17 WHEREAS, The Department of Energy has been tasked with overseeing
18 the cleanup of the site; and

19 WHEREAS, Approximately eight billion dollars have been expended on
20 the cleanup over the past several years; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States General Accounting Office estimates that
2 up to forty percent of the cleanup funds have been expended on
3 administrative, legal, or regulatory compliance activities; and

4 WHEREAS, The federal government agreed under the "Tri-Party
5 Agreement" to a series of milestones to clean up the site; and

6 WHEREAS, Key milestones in this agreement cannot be met if the
7 Department of Energy follows through on its proposal to reduce cleanup
8 funding at the Hanford site without reducing regulatory hurdles; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal government has now announced that four
10 thousand five hundred jobs will be eliminated as a result of these
11 cuts; and

12 WHEREAS, These cuts, unless accompanied by a significant
13 streamlining of the federal regulatory burden, will delay the cleanup
14 and increase its cost.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
16 federal government work with Washington State and local officials to
17 eliminate duplicative Department of Energy orders, streamline paperwork
18 requirements, and otherwise reduce unnecessary costs so that full and
19 adequate funding may be available for environmental cleanup.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
22 States, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the President of the
23 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
24 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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