
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4042

State of Washington

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By Representatives Van Luven, Sheldon, Veloria, Hatfield, Basich, Sherstad, Radcliff, Ballasiotes, Brown, Hymes, Skinner, Benton, Hickel, Valle, Patterson, Dyer and L. Thomas

Read first time 02/21/96. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH STATE'S
6 LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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 United States of America is an active participant in
11 the global economy and wishes to continue to develop foreign markets
12 and increase investment in United States products abroad; and

13 WHEREAS, The ship building industry in the United States has
14 historically been a strong industry providing quality vessels and
15 thousands of family wage jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, This industry has been largely supported by domestic and
17 military contracts. Unfortunately with military downsizing and foreign
18 competition many of these shipbuilding companies are facing serious
19 financial problems; and

20 WHEREAS, The key element which prevents United States shipbuilders
21 from successfully competing on the world market is that their foreign

1 competitors in both Europe and Asia receive large government subsidies
2 which allow them to drastically underbid United States companies; and

3 WHEREAS, The decline of military contracts and increase in foreign
4 competition have caused United States shipbuilders to become world
5 leaders in efficiency and product quality; and

6 WHEREAS, Efficiencies and product quality have not been enough to
7 overcome the tremendous economic advantage which foreign government
8 subsidies grant to United States competitors; and

9 WHEREAS, We now have a chance to level the international
10 shipbuilding field and allow United States shipbuilders to compete in
11 the international market; and

12 WHEREAS, Through the efforts of the Organization for Economic
13 Cooperation and Development (OECD) a treaty has been negotiated which
14 would eliminate shipbuilding subsidies for eighty percent of the
15 world's shipbuilding capacity; and

16 WHEREAS, This treaty has already been signed by a number of the
17 European and Asian countries as well as the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, To implement this treaty, Congressional ratification is
19 required; and

20 WHEREAS, Congress members Jennifer Dunn, Phillip Crane, and Sam
21 Gibbons have introduced H.R. 2754 which would implement the OECD
22 treaty;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request Congress
24 pass H.R. 2754, which would implement the OECD shipbuilding and repair
25 treaty.

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

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