
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4013

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Murray, Romero and Anderson

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 TO THE WASHINGTON STATE INVESTMENT BOARD:

2 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
3 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
4 represent and petition as follows:

5 WHEREAS, The people of the state of Washington have a long
6 tradition of concern for human rights, both in our communities and
7 around the world; and

8 WHEREAS, The Washington State Constitution is founded upon the
9 principals of popular sovereignty, due process, and the rule of law;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The state of Washington is part and parcel of the United
12 States of America, which has signed and pledged to uphold the United
13 Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Protocol
14 which guarantee the right to self-determination of all people and
15 prohibit torture, extrajudicial killing, and arbitrary detention; and

16 WHEREAS, Our state's ties with the Pacific Rim Region, including
17 trade, investment, agriculture, industry, and tourism are increasingly
18 significant to the economy of the state of Washington and the countries
19 of the Pacific Rim; and

1 WHEREAS, People hailing from the Pacific Rim Region make up an
2 increasing percentage of the citizens of the state of Washington,
3 increasing our ethnic and cultural connections to the region; and

4 WHEREAS, The increased economic ties between the state of
5 Washington and the Pacific Rim Region bring with them greater
6 interdependence; and

7 WHEREAS, This increased interdependence brings with it a greater
8 mutual responsibility to examine the impact that our relationship has
9 upon the people and environment of both regions; and

10 WHEREAS, Since its invasion on December 7, 1975, the government of
11 Indonesia has illegally occupied the former Portuguese colony of East
12 Timor in violation of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of
13 Human Rights and eight separate United Nations General Assembly
14 resolutions condemning the Indonesian occupation; and

15 WHEREAS, This violent and illegal occupation has caused the death
16 of over 200,000 East Timorese, approximately one-third of the
17 preinvasion population; and

18 WHEREAS, The extrajudicial executions continue in East Timor to
19 this day, including the November 1998 massacre of over 50 civilians in
20 the southern region of Alas, East Timor; and

21 WHEREAS, During this occupation the government of Indonesia has
22 promoted the forced sterilization of many East Timorese women and has
23 banned the use of indigenous East Timorese languages, wiping out a
24 number of them in the process; and

25 WHEREAS, During this occupation, the people of East Timor have been
26 denied the right to determine their own political status, as guaranteed
27 under the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

28 WHEREAS, All of these abuses have been extensively documented by
29 independent human rights organizations including Amnesty International,
30 the United States Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Human Rights Watch-
31 Asia; and

32 WHEREAS, Many of these abuses have been corroborated by the United
33 States Department of State; and

34 WHEREAS, The state of Washington is currently investing in many
35 corporations which, in turn, are obtaining their resources from
36 illegally occupied East Timor, in partnership with the Indonesian
37 government and the military; and

1 WHEREAS, This constitutes a violation of international law that
2 should no longer be encouraged by the state of Washington investment of
3 citizen tax dollars;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that until the
5 government of Indonesia allows a United Nations' supervised referendum
6 in East Timor concerning its political future, preceded by the complete
7 withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor, the Washington State
8 Investment Board shall immediately divest itself from any bank,
9 financial institution, or other corporation which directly or
10 indirectly has outstanding loans to any individual or corporation doing
11 business within the geographical boundaries or coastal waters of East
12 Timor; and

13 That the state of Washington not sell, rent, or dispose of any real
14 property or purchase services, including but not limited to granting
15 the right to lay, construct, maintain, or operate pipelines through,
16 over, across, or under land, water, park, reservation, or highway of
17 the state of Washington, its agencies, or political subdivisions to any
18 person or private corporation doing business within the geographical
19 boundaries or coastal waters of East Timor.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to each member of the Washington State Investment Board.

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