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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8002

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Deccio, Rasmussen, McDonald, T. Sheldon, Johnson, Winsley, Sellar, Shin, Prentice, Loveland, Haugen, McCaslin, Goings, Thibaudeau, Morton, Long, Hale, Rossi, Zarelli, Honeyford, Horn, Benton, Swecker, Oke, Finkbeiner, Roach, Hochstatter and Stevens

Read first time 01/14/1999. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

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:

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

8 WHEREAS, Legislation will be introduced in the United States House  
9 of Representatives to do away with the federal estate taxes, more  
10 commonly referred to as the "death tax"; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal inheritance tax is a principal cause of the  
12 inability of small businesses including minority and female-owned  
13 businesses to perpetuate themselves from one generation of ownership to  
14 the next, resulting in the liquidation of such small businesses to pay  
15 the tax, which including income taxes can result in a total tax as much  
16 as seventy-five percent; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Commerce statistics show  
18 that small businesses generate more than eighty-five percent of all  
19 jobs created in the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, This tax generates a minuscule one percent of the budget  
21 and after the Internal Revenue Service collection costs and

1 administration the net result to the federal budget is less than one-  
2 third of one percent; and

3 WHEREAS, In the 1981 general election, the voters of the State of  
4 Washington voted to abolish the state inheritance tax, with an  
5 overwhelming sixty-six percent thereby supporting the idea of nurturing  
6 family-owned businesses, to preserve local ownership and retain jobs;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
8 Congressional Delegation of the State support legislation abolishing  
9 the federal estate tax.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
11 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
12 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
13 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
14 State of Washington.

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