
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
(originally sponsored by Senators Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Morton,
Honeyford, Hochstatter and Oke)

Read first time 03/03/1999.

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 SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

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, Unilateral trade sanctions have placed a heavy burden on
10 American farmers and the American economy; and

11 WHEREAS, United States unilateral trade sanctions deprive American
12 wheat-growing families of access to eleven percent of the world grain
13 trade; and

14 WHEREAS, Direct economic losses for wheat producers have ranged
15 from three hundred million dollars to over five hundred million dollars
16 annually for the past three years; and

17 WHEREAS, The losses are not merely confined to wheat, in that
18 growers of peas, lentils, barley, and many other crops have been
19 affected as well; and

1 WHEREAS, Unilateral sanctions impose a severe penalty upon United
2 States agriculture and upon the consuming public of the sanctioned
3 country, while providing market protection for our competitors; and

4 WHEREAS, Unilateral sanctions that limit commercial, government-
5 assisted, or humanitarian movement of agricultural products have proven
6 to be ineffective mechanisms to further United States foreign policy
7 goals; and

8 WHEREAS, Farmers across America were grateful for the swift passage
9 of emergency federal legislation granting a one-year waiver of
10 sanctions against two major trading partners, Pakistan and India, for
11 credit sales of agricultural commodities, products, medicine, and
12 medical equipment; and

13 WHEREAS, That emergency legislation prevented the financial
14 calamity we face from becoming worse yet, greater long-term steps must
15 be taken if America's farm families are to survive.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that all
17 current unilateral sanctions pertaining to agricultural exports be
18 eliminated, except in cases of compelling national emergency or
19 declaration of war; that in the future the United States refrain from
20 the use of unilateral sanctions pertaining to agricultural exports
21 other than in the case of war or for national security reasons; that
22 all current sanctions affecting agricultural exports be made subject to
23 economic analysis and review, and ineffective measures be discarded,
24 and time limits applied for the review of continued current sanctions
25 measures affecting agricultural exports; that any executive branch
26 embargo of United States agricultural commodities and products be
27 subject to the review of Congress; that a new framework be put in place
28 to set policies for the future use of unilateral sanctions pertaining
29 to agricultural exports; that sanctions be created with specific sunset
30 provisions; and that legislation be approved to implement a producer-
31 compensation program based on the negative impact of sanctions on the
32 sale of agricultural products due to the exports and income hurt due to
33 the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions or embargoes.

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
35 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
36 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
37 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the

1 State of Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department
2 of Agriculture.

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