
ENGROSSED SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8013

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators T. Sheldon, Rasmussen, Horn and Sheahan

Read first time 03/23/1999. 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, Parts of Western Washington received the highest amount of
9 rainfall in state history between the months of November and February,
10 raining for ninety-one consecutive days and producing over fifty-five
11 inches of rain in King County; and

12 WHEREAS, Parts of the Olympic Peninsula, i.e., Lilliwaup, received
13 over one hundred fourteen inches of rain in a four-month period; and

14 WHEREAS, Sixty-one homes have been damaged and twenty-six homes are
15 uninhabitable in the area known as Carlyon Beach in Thurston County,
16 with property losses estimated at over ten million dollars; and

17 WHEREAS, Ground water flooding and landslides in Thurston County
18 have directly impacted at least seven hundred and sixty-five residents,
19 many of whom are elderly or have special needs; and

1 WHEREAS, A landslide in the Aldercrest neighborhood in Cowlitz
2 County has damaged one hundred and thirty-seven homes to date, and at
3 least fifty additional homes are threatened; and

4 WHEREAS, Ground water problems will cost over two million dollars
5 to repair and currently no water or sewer systems are in operation; and

6 WHEREAS, Shoreline bulkheads are failing, and public facilities
7 expenses are estimated at one million dollars, excluding the cost of
8 geotechnical assistance; and

9 WHEREAS, Washington State Department of Transportation estimates of
10 highway damages reach eleven million two hundred two thousand dollars,
11 and ten million dollars of those damages are in Mason County alone; and

12 WHEREAS, Local government estimates of damages to county roads and
13 city streets reach seven million three hundred ninety-two thousand four
14 hundred thirty-five dollars; and

15 WHEREAS, Governor Locke's emergency proclamation now includes six
16 western counties and directs state government to support emergency
17 response activities as needed around the state and authorizes the
18 Washington Military Department and its Emergency Management Division to
19 coordinate state agencies in the affected areas; and

20 WHEREAS, County officials are continuing to assess damages to
21 determine sufficient damage for justification of federal assistance;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, When damage from an event is so great it is beyond the
24 capability of local and state government to repair, the Governor can
25 ask the President to declare a disaster, thus making a variety of
26 federal disaster assistance programs available to help restore
27 communities to their predisaster condition; and

28 WHEREAS, The federal disaster assistance programs available may
29 include housing and relocation assistance, individual and family
30 grants, funding to restore public infrastructure and roads, tax
31 exemptions for the relocation of evacuated citizens, funding for
32 geotechnical studies to prevent future damage, and hazard mitigation;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that if the
34 Governor requests federal assistance, the President and the Federal
35 Emergency Management Agency will respond favorably to the request and
36 authorize the needed maximum available disaster recovery support to
37 address the needs of Washington's citizens devastated by the record
38 rainfall.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
3 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
4 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
5 State of Washington.

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