
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4027

State of Washington

57th Legislature

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By Representatives Hurst, Jackley, Morris, Schmidt, Simpson, O'Brien, Barlean, Hatfield, Santos, Cooper, Buck, Schual-Berke, Haigh, Lisk, Campbell, Ballasiotes, Kenney, Morell, Pflug, Chase and Linville

Read first time 01/30/2002. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Community Security.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 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, The solvency and viability of the property and casualty
9 insurance market is a fundamental underpinning of our national and
10 state economy; and

11 WHEREAS, The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, resulted in
12 the largest, single event insurance loss in history and has had
13 profound effects both for insurance companies and their customers; and

14 WHEREAS, The potential losses from future terrorist attacks may be
15 greater than the insurance industry's capacity to sustain; and

16 WHEREAS, Critical reinsurance markets have responded by excluding
17 future terrorism losses from policies issued to primary insurance
18 companies; and

19 WHEREAS, The primary insurance industry has therefore moved to
20 limit their exposure to catastrophic losses by terminating coverage or
21 limiting their coverage for acts of terrorism; and

1 WHEREAS, While the insurance market adjusts to this uncertainty,
2 businesses throughout our state and the nation are no longer adequately
3 protected from the economic losses caused by future acts of terrorism;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Congress is considering legislation that would create
6 a temporary federal program to share public and private compensation
7 for insured losses from acts of terrorism in order to protect consumers
8 by assuring availability of appropriate insurance coverage; and

9 WHEREAS, Delays in the enactment of appropriate solutions to this
10 problem cause economic problems for thousands of Washington businesses;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
12 States Congress immediately enact and President Bush sign legislation
13 that allows for a transitional period for the private insurance
14 industry to build capacity to absorb any future losses while preserving
15 state insurance regulation and consumer protections.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
17 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
18 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
20 Washington.

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