
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Johnson, Hale, Finkbeiner and West

Read first time 01/12/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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 establishment of high occupancy vehicle lane
9 restrictions was intended as a means of promoting car pooling in an
10 effort to improve the State's air quality; and

11 WHEREAS, The number of eligible vehicles that use the high
12 occupancy vehicle lanes has not come close to meeting the State's
13 expected projections for lane usage, which shows that the high
14 occupancy vehicle lane restrictions have not had the effect of
15 encouraging car pooling at satisfactory levels; and

16 WHEREAS, Because of the high occupancy vehicle lane restrictions,
17 a much larger number of citizens who use the nonrestricted lanes of
18 that highway are subjected to frequent heavy traffic situations, which
19 result in high costs in fuel burned and hourly wages lost, while the
20 overall levels of air pollution and noise increase, all of which

1 represent a severe reduction in the quality of life of those citizens;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Since a considerable amount of effort is used by the State
4 Patrol in enforcing the high occupancy vehicle lane restrictions, the
5 availability of the State Patrol in combating other motor vehicle-
6 related crimes on other highways of this State is diminished; and

7 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the Legislature to express this
8 policy to protect the citizens of this State who are adversely affected
9 by excessive automobile, bus, and truck traffic as a result of the high
10 occupancy vehicle lane restrictions;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
12 require the United States Secretary of Transportation to waive
13 repayment of any federal-aid highway funds expended on the construction
14 of high occupancy vehicle lanes if the Washington State Secretary of
15 Transportation assures the United States Secretary of Transportation
16 that the removal of high occupancy vehicle lane restrictions is in the
17 public interest.

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

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