
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8023

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Hale, Fraser, Eide, Regala and Roach

Read first time 05/07/2001. Referred to Committee on .

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, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

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, The Hanford Reservation in Southeast Washington state
10 presents an unprecedented environmental cleanup challenge resulting
11 from decades of defense production that served to bring an early end to
12 World War II and to keep our nation safe during the Cold War years; and

13 WHEREAS, The Hanford Reservation is located near the Columbia
14 River, which irrigates our farmland and is the lifeblood of Washington
15 state; and

16 WHEREAS, It is imperative that cleanup of the Hanford Reservation
17 be sustained and completed as expeditiously as possible to preserve the
18 integrity of the environment and the safety of generations to come; and

19 WHEREAS, Significant cleanup progress is being made at Hanford,
20 including decommissioning and deactivating more than 35 buildings;
21 resolving safety issues associated with Hanford's 177 underground waste

1 storage tanks; stabilizing plutonium in the Plutonium Finishing Plant;
2 moving spent nuclear fuel out of the K-Basins and away from the river
3 to safer storage in the central plateau; shipping transuranic waste to
4 New Mexico for permanent storage; and moving 600,000 tons of
5 contaminated soil away from the river; and

6 WHEREAS, The President's proposed fiscal year 2002 budget threatens
7 the cleanup effort and jeopardizes the Department of Energy's ability
8 to comply with federal and state laws and meet the compliance
9 commitments set forth in the Tri-Party Agreement between the State of
10 Washington, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the
11 United States Department of Energy; and

12 WHEREAS, Budget-driven delays in Hanford cleanup activities will
13 compromise the success of the project resulting in greater costs to
14 taxpayers, another in a string of broken promises, and public outrage
15 at this continuing, unaddressed threat to public health and the
16 environment;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that you fully
18 fund the needs of a sustained environmental cleanup in keeping with
19 federal and state laws and the Tri-Party Agreement, and providing for
20 the protection of the great Columbia River and the citizens of the
21 state of Washington.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
24 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, the
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
27 Washington.

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