
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4007

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, Chopp, Haigh, Woods, Dunshee, Kirby, Boldt, O'Brien, Armstrong, DeBolt, Ahern, Newhouse, Simpson, Holmquist, Cairnes, Sump, Pearson, Shabro, Delvin, Hudgins, Linville, Conway, Skinner, Sullivan and Kenney

Read first time 01/24/2003. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

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 UNITED STATES
5 POSTMASTER GENERAL, AND TO THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
6 THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, Since the birth of this country, our nation owes our
11 coalminers a debt we could never begin to repay for the difficult and
12 dangerous job they perform so we could have the fuel we need to operate
13 our industries and heat our homes; and

14 WHEREAS, The energy needs of communities throughout the nation have
15 been met due to the hard work and dedication of American coalminers;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Millions of workers toiled in the nation's coal mines over
18 the last century, risking both life and limb to fuel the nation's
19 economic expansion, and through their manual labor made possible the

1 technological conveniences of modern American life through those
2 contributions to the nation's welfare are generally unknown to the
3 public; and

4 WHEREAS, During the last century, over 100,000 coalminers have been
5 killed in mining accidents in the nation's coal mines and 3,500,000
6 coalminers have suffered nonfatal injuries; and

7 WHEREAS, 100,000 coalminers have contracted Black Lung Disease as
8 a direct result of their toil in the nation's coal mines; and

9 WHEREAS, Coal provides 50 percent of the nation's electricity and
10 is an essential fuel for industries such as steel, cement, chemical,
11 food, and paper; and

12 WHEREAS, Coalminers keep the nation supplied with an energy
13 resource that produces electricity for the lowest cost, when compared
14 to fuels other than nuclear, and which makes possible the country's
15 unmatched productivity and prosperity; and

16 WHEREAS, Coalminers provide a vital pool of labor with the
17 expertise to produce energy supplies from vast national coal reserves
18 which serves to buffer the country from a dangerous dependence on
19 foreign energy fuels; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States has a demonstrated coal reserve of more
21 than 500,000,000,000 tons, with an estimated 275,000,000,000 tons of
22 recoverable reserves which, at current production rates, represents
23 about 275 years of recoverable coal reserves; and

24 WHEREAS, These coal reserves represent about 95 percent of all
25 fossil fuel reserves in the United States, about one-fourth of the
26 world's known coal reserves; and

27 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of all coal mined in the United
28 States is transported by rail, making coal the largest single source of
29 freight revenue for United States' railroads; and

30 WHEREAS, Transportation by railroad provided jobs for thousands of
31 workers by initially building the infrastructure, maintenance of same,
32 and loading and unloading of coal; and

33 WHEREAS, The dominant mode of coal transportation into New York is
34 by railroad; and

35 WHEREAS, It would be proper and fitting for our nation to recognize
36 our coalminers, both past and present, for their contributions to this
37 nation; and

1 WHEREAS, Coal mining continues to be the economic engine for many
2 communities, providing jobs to areas with little economic diversity;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Coal mining provides an economic benefit far beyond its
5 direct revenue, including billions of dollars in economic output and
6 household earnings and hundreds of thousands of jobs in other
7 industries;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
9 States Postal service issue a postage stamp commemorating American
10 coalminers, which would hold the promise of illustrating a colorful and
11 historically rich segment of society for the benefit of school
12 children, stamp collectors, educators, and the public.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
15 States, the United States Postmaster General, the Citizens' Stamp
16 Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service, the President
17 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
19 Washington.

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