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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4015

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Roach, Cairnes, Orcutt and McMahan

Read first time 02/13/2003. Referred to Committee on Finance.

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, Under tax relief legislation passed in 2001, the death tax  
9            was temporarily phased out, not permanently eliminated; and

10           WHEREAS, Women and minorities are very often owners of small and  
11           medium-sized businesses, and the death tax prevents their children from  
12           reaping the rewards of a lifetime of trying to make a better life; and

13           WHEREAS, Farmers and other small businesses will face losing their  
14           farms and businesses if the federal government resumes the heavy  
15           taxation of citizens at death; and

16           WHEREAS, Employees suffer when they lose their jobs when small and  
17           medium-sized businesses are liquidated to pay death taxes; and

18           WHEREAS, If the estate tax had been repealed in 1996, over the next  
19           nine years the United States economy would have averaged as much as

1 eleven billion dollars per year in extra output, and an average of one  
2 hundred forty-five thousand additional new jobs would have been  
3 created; and

4 WHEREAS, The persistent uncertainty created by the sunset provision  
5 prevents families and small businesses from taking advantage of the  
6 temporary repeal; and

7 WHEREAS, Having repeatedly passed both the United States House of  
8 Representatives and the United States Senate, elimination of the death  
9 tax has proven to hold wide bipartisan support;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that our  
11 elected Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress will  
12 work to permanently repeal the death tax.

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 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
16 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
17 Washington.

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