
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8050

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Sheahan and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/02/2004. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

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 AGRICULTURE:

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 recent positive test for bovine spongiform
10 encephalopathy (BSE) in a cow in Washington State has brought public
11 attention to one of several types of transmissible spongiform
12 encephalopathies (TSE) that occur in various animal species including
13 chronic wasting disease in deer, and scrapie in sheep; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Washington recognizes that addressing the all
15 encompassing BSE and TSE related issues needs to be coordinated at the
16 federal level, with cooperation by and input from each state including
17 an identification of contributions that institutions in each state may
18 make to an overall response; and

19 WHEREAS, The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

1 (WADDL) at Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine
2 has been on the cutting edge of research into many aspects of research
3 over the wide gamut of TSE diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, Among the many accomplishments of this laboratory have
5 been: (1) The development of the first and currently only practical
6 live animal test for any TSE, that being the third eyelid test for
7 scrapie; and (2) defining the distribution of abnormal prion in sheep
8 and goat scrapie which will be needed eventually for the United States
9 to be declared free of scrapie; and

10 WHEREAS, Another accomplishment is in chronic wasting disease
11 (CWD), a TSE affecting deer, where the preliminary research was done
12 for the development of what now is a commercially available diagnostic
13 test for CWD; and

14 WHEREAS, In regards to BSE, the Washington Animal Disease
15 Diagnostic Laboratory and College of Veterinary Medicine have
16 collaborated with the USDA ARS Animal Disease Research Unit to develop
17 the assay for conducting an initial surveillance test for BSE that can
18 provide results in just a few hours and is widely used in Europe and in
19 Japan; and

20 WHEREAS, WADDL is a fully accredited laboratory and is one of
21 twelve laboratories that is recognized as part of the national animal
22 health laboratory network through homeland security, and any
23 enhancements in this laboratory would also increase the capacity to
24 respond to food safety or animal disease issues that may arise; and

25 WHEREAS, The public demand for research to answer the many
26 questions generated by the recent discovery of a cow with BSE in
27 Washington State will likely result in an expanded need for further
28 scientific answers about the full range of TSEs, including the
29 development of a test on live cattle for BSE, and the possibility of
30 conducting fast surveillance tests for BSE that could be conducted in
31 conjunction with the existing test administered for brucellosis;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
33 and the United States Department of Agriculture be fully aware of the
34 current expertise that exists as the Washington Animal Disease
35 Diagnostic Laboratory at Washington State University and the head start
36 this institution has to fulfill needs on projects related to TSEs
37 including an ability to:

1 (1) Develop a BSE test for live cattle that will require a large
2 animal ABSL3 biocontainment facility with an estimated cost of \$25
3 million;

4 (2) Conduct an itemized list of enhanced TSE research projects
5 costing approximately \$2 million; or

6 (3) Administer a quick surveillance BSE testing program for the
7 state or the region that would require USDA authorization including
8 approval of testing protocols, and funding for personnel, equipment,
9 working space, the purchase of test kits, with the overall cost
10 dependent upon the number of tests to be preformed each year.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
13 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
14 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
16 Washington.

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