

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 18, 2003
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 14, 2003
YEAS 93 NAYS 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr.,
Secretary of the Senate of the
State of Washington, do hereby
certify that the attached is
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015 as
passed by the Senate and the House
of Representatives on the dates
hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senators Sheahan, Hale and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/12/2003. 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 HONORABLE ANN M.
5 VENEMAN, THE SECRETARY OF THE 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, Wheat farming is the major industry in many rural regions
10 of Washington State and thus the health of the industry is inextricably
11 linked to the economic health of the populations in these rural
12 regions; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately one hundred fifty million bushels of wheat
14 is produced annually on two and one-half million acres by five thousand
15 farms and generates four hundred fifty million dollars in gross crop
16 value, placing Washington State third in the nation among wheat
17 producing states; and

18 WHEREAS, Washington is one of the largest and most heavily reliant
19 of the wheat exporting states with up to ninety percent of the state's
20 production being exported each year; and

1 WHEREAS, The wheat production in Washington State is predominantly
2 by family farm operations that are as efficient and productive as any
3 growers in the world and that produce the highest quality product
4 possible; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite being the most efficient producers of the highest
6 quality product, low prices received by farmers in recent years,
7 especially for those farmers with loan obligations, have resulted in
8 the continual erosion in many farmers' net worths and a loss of farming
9 operations; and

10 WHEREAS, Because prices for wheat in recent years, including funds
11 from government programs, have frequently been at or below the cost of
12 production, the wheat farming community is very sensitive to
13 significant government actions that affect supply and demand and
14 depress wheat prices; and

15 WHEREAS, The price of the soft white wheat predominately grown in
16 Washington reached a high in early fall of four dollars and eighty
17 cents per bushel at the Portland grain terminal but has fallen
18 dramatically by over one dollar per bushel due to a combination of
19 factors, including large sales over a short period of time from
20 federally held grain reserves and the labor dispute causing the
21 cessation in the shipment of grain at export facilities; and

22 WHEREAS, A bushel of wheat makes forty-two pounds of flour, which
23 makes sixty-six loaves of bread, and comprises only six cents of the
24 one dollar and thirty cents average retail price per loaf;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that new
26 federal procedures be established to assure that future sales of wheat
27 stocks from federally held grain reserves be conducted in a manner that
28 such sales will not unduly disrupt the market while also fulfilling the
29 original intent of providing for emergency humanitarian food needs in
30 developing countries.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
33 States, the Honorable Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of the United States
34 Department of Agriculture, the President of the United States Senate,
35 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
36 Congress from the State of Washington.

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