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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Curtis, Armstrong, Orcutt, Haler, Condotta, Nixon, Newhouse, Buri, McCune, Clements, Dunn, Takko, Grant and Moeller

Read first time 01/14/2005. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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, Citizens have a right, protected by the Second Amendment  
9            to the United States Constitution, to keep and bear arms; and

10           WHEREAS, Lawsuits have been commenced against manufacturers  
11           distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms that operate as  
12           designed and intended, which seek money damages and other relief for  
13           the harm caused by the misuse of firearms by third parties, including  
14           criminals; and

15           WHEREAS, The manufacture, importation, possession, sale, and use of  
16           firearms and ammunition in the United States are heavily regulated by  
17           federal, state, and local laws including the Gun Control Act of 1968,  
18           the National Firearms Act, and the Arms Export Control Act; and

19           WHEREAS, Businesses in the United States that are engaged in  
20           interstate and foreign commerce through the lawful design, manufacture,

1 marketing, distribution, importation, or sale to the public of firearms  
2 or ammunition that have been shipped or transported in interstate or  
3 foreign commerce are not, and should be not liable for the harm caused  
4 by those who criminally or unlawfully misuse firearm products or  
5 ammunition products that function as designed and intended; and

6 WHEREAS, Thirty-three states have passed legislation protecting  
7 firearms and ammunition manufacturers, and legislation in Congress  
8 supporting this measure has broad bipartisan support;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that our  
10 elected Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress end  
11 the abuse of tort laws against the firearms industry.

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

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