
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4007

State of Washington **60th Legislature** **2007 Regular Session**

By Representatives Hudgins, Campbell, Morrell, Wood, Hunt, Chase, Kenney, Simpson and Goodman

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Environmental Health.

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 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, STEPHEN JOHNSON:

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, On March 29, 2006, the United States Environmental
10 Protection Agency proposed a rule on the Control of Hazardous Air
11 Pollutants from Mobile Sources, which regulates several hazardous air
12 pollutants, including benzene; and

13 WHEREAS, Benzene is one of several air pollutants emitted by motor
14 vehicles and other mobile sources that contributes significantly to the
15 nationwide risk from breathing outdoor air toxics; and

16 WHEREAS, Benzene is an air toxic of particular concern because it
17 is a known carcinogen; and

18 WHEREAS, Benzene emission levels in Washington state are seven
19 percent higher than the national average; and

1 WHEREAS, A recent assessment conducted by the Environmental
2 Protection Agency indicates that Washington has very high benzene
3 levels, especially as compared to other areas of the country; and

4 WHEREAS, The proposed March 29, 2006, Environmental Protection
5 Agency rule would allow excessively high and geographically
6 disproportionate exposures to benzene to continue in Washington state;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The federal Clean Air Act preempts states and localities
9 from taking any additional action to regulate benzene in gasoline,
10 despite its known risk to our citizen's health;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
12 States Congress reconsider the preemption of state authority under the
13 Clean Air Act and instead delegate to the states the authority to
14 regulate the effects of known carcinogens such as benzene.

15 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington legislature requests that the
16 United States Environmental Protection Agency equalize federal
17 treatment of benzene across our country by promulgating rules with
18 respect to benzene that do not put Washington citizens at a greater
19 risk than other parts of our great nation, and that take into
20 consideration the health and well-being of the citizens of Washington
21 state and the health and well-being of our children and grandchildren.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
24 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
25 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
26 Washington, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection
27 Agency, Stephen Johnson.

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