
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4029

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Bailey, Kirby, Rolfes, and Kelley

Read first time 01/28/10. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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 TIMOTHY
5 GEITHNER, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, AND TO CHRISTINE GREGOIRE,
6 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
9 represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, Washington's community banks have
11 played a significant role in their communities, and currently provide
12 jobs for more than 12,000 of Washington's citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, The current financial crisis and economic climate have
14 placed many banks, both community and national, at risk; and

15 WHEREAS, In the last year, the Washington department of financial
16 institutions has been forced to close five banks, after not closing one
17 for more than ten years; and

18 WHEREAS, Some of the "one-size-fits-all" inflexible actions taken
19 by federal regulators during this crisis have had a harmful effect on

1 community banks and exacerbated the difficulties they face, reducing
2 credit availability and slowing economic recovery; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington community banks have had no role in causing the
4 financial crisis and did not engage in subprime lending; and

5 WHEREAS, Concern exists that banks in some regions of the nation
6 are being subjected to stricter examinations than others; and

7 WHEREAS, Sources of traditional capital for bank investment are
8 significantly reduced and many community banks have little or no access
9 to funds under the standards that have been applied by the capital
10 purchase program (CPP) of the troubled asset relief program (TARP); and

11 WHEREAS, Community banks are an economic backbone of Washington's
12 communities, the lending lifeblood for "main street," and are best
13 positioned to help our small businesses lead us out of current, poor
14 economic conditions; and

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
16 President of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the
17 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
18 House of Representatives, and the United States Senate and House of
19 Representatives actively support policies and legislation to:

20 (1) Develop a new capital purchase program for community banks that
21 does not require banks to prove their viability before receiving TARP
22 funds;

23 (2) Develop and expedite an efficient small business lending
24 program of adequate size and scope and with appropriate incentives that
25 will allow community banks to participate and to begin making loans to
26 deserving small businesses otherwise unable to obtain financing;

27 (3) Facilitate lending by community banks to the residential and
28 commercial real estate sectors;

29 (4) Permit community banks to seek alternative sources of capital;
30 and

31 (5) Ensure that examination standards are applied evenly to all
32 banks in the United States, regardless of size or primary federal
33 regulator, and not more stringently in some regions than others.

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
35 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
36 States, the Honorable Timothy Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury, the
37 Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington, the

1 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
3 Washington.

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