
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Chase, Kohl-Welles, Rolfes, Keiser, Darneille,
and Cleveland

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, 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
4 THE 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,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, An effective money and banking system is essential to
9 the functioning of the economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Such a system must function in the public interest,
11 without bias; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 1933, the federal banking act of 1933, known as
13 the Glass-Steagall act, protected the public interest in matters
14 dealing with the regulation of commercial and investment banking, in
15 addition to insurance companies and securities; and

16 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall act was repealed in 1999, partially
17 contributing to the greatest speculative bubble and worldwide
18 recession since the great depression of 1933; and

19 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has left millions of homes in
20 foreclosure; and

21 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has caused the loss of millions
22 of jobs nationwide; and

1 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has put severe financial strains
2 on states, counties, and cities, exacerbating unemployment and the
3 loss of civil services; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States senate and house of representatives
5 have been making efforts to restore the protections of the Glass-
6 Steagall act; and

7 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur has introduced H.Res. 129,
8 known as the return to prudent banking act of 2013, which revives the
9 separation between commercial banking and the securities business in
10 the manner provided in the Glass-Steagall act; and

11 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall act has widespread national support
12 from such organizations as the American federation of labor and
13 congress of industrial organizations (AFL-CIO), the American
14 federation of teachers, and the international association of
15 machinists, as well as from prominent economic and business leaders,
16 including Thomas Hoenig of the FDIC, Sanford Weill, former CEO of
17 Citigroup, economist Luigi Zingales, the New York Times, the St.
18 Louis Post Dispatch, the Los Angeles Times, and many others;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
20 enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial
21 and investment banking functions that were in effect under the Glass-
22 Steagall act, prohibiting commercial banks and bank holding companies
23 from investing in stocks, underwriting securities, or investing in or
24 acting as guarantors to derivative transactions, in order to prevent
25 American taxpayers from being called upon to fund hundreds of
26 billions of dollars to bail out financial institutions;

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
28 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
29 States, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, the President of the United
30 States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each
31 member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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