
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Chase and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/24/17. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance.

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD TRUMP, 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, The banking crisis is continuing in the United States,
9 as exemplified by the fraudulent practices of Wells Fargo Bank and
10 others; the ongoing criminal actions of JP Morgan Chase, Citibank,
11 HSBC, and other too-big-to-fail banks have resulted in billions of
12 dollars in fines; and yet, the federally insured banks still have
13 over 250 trillion dollars of derivative securities on their books,
14 the same securities that blew up the economy in 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, The financial crisis is being driven by a collapse of
16 our industry and infrastructure, the gross domestic product of the
17 nation has been expanding at an anemic 1-2 percent per year rate for
18 nearly a decade, and productivity has been growing at an even
19 lower .5 percent rate; and

20 WHEREAS, A return to a durable industrial recovery will require
21 adopting national banking policies as was done by Alexander Hamilton,
22 John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt;
23 federal credit to industry, states, and cities built the economy of

1 our nation and a new National Bank could invest trillions of dollars
2 into our infrastructure creating millions of new jobs and increasing
3 the productivity of the nation;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
5 Congress of the United States immediately adopt the following
6 "American Recovery" program:

7 (1) Restore the provisions of the Glass-Steagall Act; and pass
8 HR-381 in the House of Representatives and S 1709 in the Senate,
9 which aim to immediately restore the separation of investment and
10 commercial banking. Glass-Steagall was law for 66 years and prevented
11 the kind of collapse that hit in 2008. The Washington State Senate
12 was one of 15 legislatures that filed Glass-Steagall resolutions in
13 2016 (SJM 8005) and Glass-Steagall was added to the platform of the
14 Democratic and Republican Parties this summer.

15 (2) Return to a national banking and a federal credit system
16 modeled on the principles of Alexander Hamilton's First Bank of the
17 United States, which built all of the early infrastructure of the
18 nation. Abraham Lincoln was a leading advocate for a new National
19 Bank and used the Greenback policy to build the industrial might of
20 the nation. The same credit policy was embodied in Franklin D.
21 Roosevelt's Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), which financed
22 the gigantic New Deal infrastructure program. Washington State was a
23 leading recipient of RFC financing in such projects as the Bonneville
24 and Grand Coulee dams, the Lake Washington floating bridge, and
25 Olympic National Park. A New National Bank can be capitalized at 1-2
26 trillion dollars with no taxpayer money and can fund a new
27 infrastructure program.

28 (3) Use the federal credit system to build a modern network of
29 high-speed rail, power generating systems, and water projects, such
30 as those urgently needed in the Southwest. High-Speed passenger and
31 freight lines could alter the entire western United States.

32 (4) Rebuild our space program, beginning with industrial
33 development of the moon; explore the solar system and inspire future
34 generations; and launch a crash program to develop fusion power as
35 key to solving the energy problems for the long term.

36 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
37 transmitted to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United
38 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the

1 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State
2 of Washington.

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