

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4020

52nd Legislature
1991 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 8, 1991

Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 11, 1991

President of the Senate

CERTIFICATE

I, Alan Thompson, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4020** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4020

Passed Legislature - 1991 Regular Session

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Jones, Bowman, Brumsickle, Basich, Hargrove, Heavey, Fuhrman, Braddock, Morton, H. Sommers, Lisk, Nealey, Schmidt, Wang, Jacobsen, Peery, Franklin, May, Ogden, Leonard, Prentice, Kremen, Anderson, Scott, Van Luven, Valle, Wineberry, D. Sommers, Haugen, Dorn, Rasmussen, R. Fisher, Cooper, Spanel, G. Fisher, Pruitt, Ferguson, R. Johnson, Brough, Phillips, Chandler, Wynne, Sheldon, P. Johnson and Tate.

Read first time March 7, 1991.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, 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:

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, Changes in federal Forest Service management policies are
9 leading to the loss of twenty thousand jobs in Washington state due to
10 a decline in the federal timber supply; and

11 WHEREAS, Most of these timber-related jobs are located in rural
12 areas of the state which have few economic alternatives. While the
13 economy of our state's urban areas may be vibrant, our rural
14 communities are suffering from impacts of the decline in timber supply.
15 These rural, timber-dependent communities often do not have the
16 economic diversity of the urban areas. Workers who lose their jobs are

1 frequently far away from jobs in other sectors of the economy and far
2 away from training centers; and

3 WHEREAS, If the people of the United States feel that they need to
4 make the decision to cut back on the federal timber supply they should
5 be willing to pay the economic costs of that decision rather than
6 attempt to shift the entire cost to the hardworking timber families in
7 our state's rural communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Congress has provided other workers who have been impacted
9 by federal decisions with adequate benefits to make the transition to
10 other jobs. Coal miners impacted by the Clean Air Act and defense
11 workers impacted by defense cuts received special benefits during the
12 last Congressional session. No such benefits were provided for timber
13 workers hurt by federal decisions; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently available job retraining programs fall short of
15 the mark. They do not provide adequate funds for the long-term
16 training which is needed for a transition to family wage jobs. They do
17 not provide resources to allow workers to maintain their families while
18 they are in training. They are severely lacking in the ability to meet
19 emergency needs. As family emergencies happen, we often see workers
20 drop out of their retraining programs and thus they are considered
21 failures;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
23 pass a Timber Workers Fairness Act which will provide adequate benefits
24 to timber workers impacted by federal decisions. The benefits should
25 be similar to those provided to workers impacted by federal trade
26 policies under the Trade Adjustment Act, and federal environmental
27 policies under the Clean Air Act. The legislation should have the
28 following components:

29 (1) A training program of adequate duration to provide a transition
30 to family wage jobs;

1 (2) Training allowances to help families survive through the
2 retraining program. The allowances should be available to self-
3 employed individuals as well as people who have not worked enough hours
4 to be eligible for Unemployment. Families eligible for unemployment
5 insurance should be eligible for an extension of up to fifty-two weeks
6 if they are participating in training;

7 (3) Provision of support services to provide for needs such as
8 child care, transportation, and emergency medical services.

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