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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4011

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Thompson, Goldsmith, Radcliff, Sheahan, Johnson, Beeksma, Delvin, Skinner, Hickel, Campbell, Mulliken, Hargrove, Talcott, Cooke, Mitchell, Huff and Boldt

Read first time 01/24/95.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1            TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

4            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
6 represent and petition as follows:

7            WHEREAS, With each passing year this Nation becomes deeply in debt  
8 as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues so  
9 that the public debt now exceeds three trillion dollars; and

10           WHEREAS, Attempts to limit spending, including impoundment of funds  
11 by the President of the United States, have resulted in strenuous  
12 assertions that the responsibility for appropriations is the  
13 constitutional duty of the Congress; and

14           WHEREAS, The annual Federal budget repeatedly demonstrates the  
15 unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive  
16 branches of the Federal government to curtail spending to conform to  
17 available revenues; and

18           WHEREAS, The unified budget does not reflect actual spending  
19 because of the exclusion of special outlays that are not in the budget;  
20 and

1       WHEREAS, Knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that  
2 the budget reflect all Federal spending and that the budget be in  
3 balance; and

4       WHEREAS, Believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the Federal  
5 level is one of the greatest economic threats that faces our Nation, we  
6 firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the  
7 fiscal discipline needed to reverse this trend;

8       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists, a majority of all members of the  
9 two houses, voting separately, concurring herein, petition the Congress  
10 of the United States of America to adopt an amendment to the  
11 Constitution of the United States, for submission to the states for  
12 ratification, requiring, with certain exceptions, that for each fiscal  
13 year the President of the United States submit and the Congress of the  
14 United States adopt a balanced federal budget.

15       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
16 transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
17 of the House of Representatives, to each member of Congress from the  
18 State of Washington, and to the presiding officer of each house of each  
19 state legislature in the United States.

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