

---

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8024

---

State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Swecker, Hochstatter, Johnson, Roach and Deccio

Read first time 01/12/96. Referred to Committee on Ecology & Parks.

1            TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO CAROL M. BROWNER,  
5 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

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

9            WHEREAS, Current federal restrictions on the use of  
10 chlorofluorocarbons, such as those found in the air conditioning  
11 process, are based on unreliable and unsubstantiated studies; and

12            WHEREAS, By its very nature, research on the effects of  
13 chlorofluorocarbons fails to assess entirely the long-term impacts that  
14 the use of this class of compounds may have on the environment and  
15 particularly on the ozone. Observation of an alleged "hole" in the  
16 earth's ozone layer is a recent and unproven phenomenon, and short-term  
17 research cannot possibly predict with any degree of accuracy a  
18 potential threat that chlorofluorocarbons might pose to the  
19 environment. Indeed, studies on alleged ozone depletion do not  
20 indicate lasting repercussions resulting from the use of

1 chlorofluorocarbons, nor that this occurrence is even a consequence of  
2 human activity; and

3 WHEREAS, Observations made by the scientific community regarding  
4 depletion of the ozone layer have failed to assign responsibility of  
5 this occurrence to any particular chemical, class of chemicals, or  
6 chemical process. Furthermore, these studies have not conclusively  
7 shown there to be a continued threat to the ozone layer into the  
8 future, nor have they recommended a revision in public policy or social  
9 life-style regarding the use of chlorofluorocarbons; and

10 WHEREAS, Chlorofluorocarbons in the earth's atmosphere are  
11 minuscule when compared to the vastness of the ozone layer, and it is  
12 presumptuous to assume that they can substantially affect it. Any  
13 trivial benefits to be gained from prohibiting the use of  
14 chlorofluorocarbons do not warrant the economic and social costs  
15 resulting from such drastic and unnecessary measures;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
17 members of the United States Congress and the officials of the  
18 Environmental Protection Agency immediately initiate efforts to repeal  
19 the federal ban on the use of chlorofluorocarbons.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
22 United States, Carol M. Browner, Administrator of the Environmental  
23 Protection Agency, the President of the United States Senate, the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress  
25 from the State of Washington.

--- END ---