
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4007

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives McMorris, Sump, Schoesler, Mulliken, Koster, Boldt, Smith, Mielke, Sterk, Pennington and Dunn

Read first time 01/29/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

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:

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, The founders of this nation recognized the legitimacy of
9 allocating political power on a basis other than population; and

10 WHEREAS, The founders provided that the President of this nation
11 should be elected by the electoral college rather than by popular vote;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The founders of this nation provided that every state in
14 the union would have two senators without regard to population; and

15 WHEREAS, For more than one hundred fifty years the states of this
16 union were free to allocate political power among persons and interests
17 in a manner that considered interests other than population; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court in *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S.
19 186 (1962), and its progeny including *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533
20 (1964), has denied the states their historical power to have a State
21 House of Representatives that is apportioned on the basis of population

1 but a State Senate apportioned in a manner that reflects other values
2 and interests; and

3 WHEREAS, States that have a bicameral legislature should be allowed
4 to apportion their state senates in any manner they wish while they
5 maintain a population-based apportionment in state houses;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that in
7 accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution the
8 Congress propose to the several states an amendment to the Constitution
9 that would allow states with bicameral legislatures to apportion the
10 lower house on the basis of population but the upper chamber in any
11 manner that they feel is appropriate.

12 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
13 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
14 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
16 State of Washington.

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