
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4025

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Chandler, Lisk and Mulliken)

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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 THE DIRECTOR OF THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

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, The fifty-one mile stretch of the Columbia River known as
10 the Hanford Reach provides eighty percent of the fall Chinook salmon in
11 the river system, critical habitat for wildlife, a high-quality
12 waterfowl sanctuary, and numerous scenic, historic, and recreational
13 opportunities for the public; and

14 WHEREAS, In order to help preserve and protect the unique
15 environmental benefits of the region, Congress prohibited damming,
16 dredging, channeling, and other such activities along the Hanford Reach
17 in 1996 by enacting Public Law 104-333; and

18 WHEREAS, The land surrounding the Hanford Reach should be properly
19 managed in order to protect plant, fish, wildlife, cultural,
20 recreational, and scenic resources, while preserving access to these
21 lands; and

1 WHEREAS, Recognizing the unique and pristine values of the area,
2 local citizens in cooperation with federal and state authorities have
3 developed a comprehensive protection plan which has enhanced salmon
4 habitat along the Hanford Reach through the Vernita Bar Agreement which
5 preserves the free flowing, riparian character of the Hanford Reach and
6 serves as a blueprint for further successful management along the
7 Columbia River; and

8 WHEREAS, Although numerous local, state, and federal environmental
9 protection and management laws and regulations exist for the Hanford
10 Reach, management efforts can be better integrated and can lead to more
11 efficient use of public resources and improved habitat and recreation
12 management; and

13 WHEREAS, Several of the areas adjacent to the Hanford Reach,
14 including lands known as the Wahluke Slope, currently owned by the
15 United States, have been extensively studied and reviewed through
16 environmental impact statements and have been found to be
17 environmentally sound and certified suitable for conveyance; and

18 WHEREAS, Since federal financial resources are constrained, joint
19 partnerships among federal, state, and local entities can provide long-
20 term habitat and wildlife management, maintain recreational
21 opportunities, and develop a responsible and environmentally sound
22 local land use plan for the region; and

23 WHEREAS, The people and governments of Benton, Franklin, Grant, and
24 Adams Counties desire to enter into such a partnership with the State
25 of Washington and the United States to ensure the continued protection
26 of plant, fish, wildlife, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources
27 on the lands surrounding the Hanford Reach; and

28 WHEREAS, Such cooperative partnership will provide a forum for
29 public input from the entire region and will ensure the long-term
30 protection of the river as wild, scenic, and accessible;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
32 create a Hanford Reach Protection and Management Commission that grants
33 local residents an authoritative voice rather than an advisory role in
34 the protection and management of lands in the Hanford Reach area, as
35 reflected in H.R. 1811.

36 BE IT RESOLVED, That lands owned by the United States in the
37 Hanford Reach area be conveyed to the State of Washington and to Adams,
38 Grant, and Franklin Counties for management as prescribed and
39 authorized in H.R. 1811; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Hanford Reach Protection and
2 Management Commission develop and implement a plan to manage the lands
3 so conveyed to protect and enhance plant resources, fish and wildlife
4 resources, cultural resources, recreational access, and other uses or
5 resources; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
7 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
8 United States, the Director of the Department of Energy, the President
9 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
11 Washington.

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