
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4022

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Delvin, Hankins, G. Chandler, B. Chandler, Mastin, Lisk, Grant, Linville and Mitchell

Read first time 01/21/2000. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Ecology.

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 SECRETARY 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 United States government in the throes and peril of
10 World War II and the following cold war did confiscate and use five
11 hundred sixty square miles of desert on the banks of the Columbia River
12 in Washington State, which came to be known as the Hanford site, to
13 produce plutonium for use in nuclear weapons, which did contribute to
14 bringing both wars to conclusion; and

15 WHEREAS, The peace and well-being of the citizens of the United
16 States was furthered for over forty-five years by the work done at the
17 Hanford site; and

18 WHEREAS, The Hanford site is now the nation's biggest environmental
19 clean-up project; and

20 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of the nation's defense nuclear waste is
21 stored at Hanford in one hundred seventy-seven underground storage

1 tanks, most of which are beyond their design life, and one-third of
2 which have leaked one million gallons to the ground; and

3 WHEREAS, The tanks are seven miles south and ten miles west of the
4 Columbia River, the largest river in the Pacific Northwest and a
5 national treasure; and

6 WHEREAS, The site is currently in the process of cleaning up the
7 legacy left by the above stated work, which was in the best interests
8 of the American people; and

9 WHEREAS, The Hanford site is the only one of the United States
10 Department of Energy sites without a waste treatment facility; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Energy Office of River Protection was
12 created by Congress in 1998 to manage all aspects of the tank waste
13 remediation project; and

14 WHEREAS, Full funding of this environmentally necessary clean-up
15 effort is imperative and overdue;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that, with due
17 respect for other clean-up projects' needs, full funding as necessary
18 to build a vitrification treatment plant, retrieve waste from the
19 tanks, feed waste into said vitrification treatment plant, and dispose
20 of resulting glass logs be forthcoming on schedule to meet the
21 negotiated dates contained in the Tri-Party Agreement between the
22 Washington State Department of Ecology, the United States Environmental
23 Protection Agency, and the United States Department of Energy.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
25 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
26 United States, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the President
27 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
29 Washington.

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