
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Sheahan, T. Sheldon, Stevens, Morton, Honeyford,
Hochstatter and Oke

Read first time 02/19/1999. Referred to Committee on Agriculture &
Rural Economic Development.

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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

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, Unilateral trade sanctions have placed a heavy burden on
10 American farmers and the American economy; and

11 WHEREAS, United States unilateral trade sanctions deprive American
12 wheat-growing families of access to eleven percent of the world grain
13 trade; and

14 WHEREAS, Direct economic losses for wheat producers have ranged
15 from three hundred million dollars to over five hundred million dollars
16 annually for the past three years; and

17 WHEREAS, The losses are not merely confined to wheat, in that
18 growers of peas, lentils, barley, and many other crops have been
19 affected as well; and

1 WHEREAS, Unilateral sanctions impose a severe penalty upon United
2 States agriculture and upon the consuming public of the sanctioned
3 country, while providing market protection for our competitors; and

4 WHEREAS, Unilateral sanctions that limit commercial, government-
5 assisted, or humanitarian movement of agricultural products have proven
6 to be ineffective mechanisms to further United States foreign policy
7 goals; and

8 WHEREAS, Farmers across America were grateful for the swift passage
9 of emergency federal legislation granting a one-year waiver of
10 sanctions against two major trading partners, Pakistan and India, for
11 credit sales of agricultural commodities, products, medicine, and
12 medical equipment; and

13 WHEREAS, That emergency legislation prevented the financial
14 calamity we face from becoming worse yet, greater long-term steps must
15 be taken if America's farm families are to survive.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that all
17 current unilateral sanctions pertaining to agricultural exports be
18 eliminated, except in cases of compelling national emergency or
19 declaration of war; that in the future the United States refrain from
20 the use of unilateral sanctions other than in the case of war or for
21 national security reasons; that all current sanctions be made subject
22 to economic analysis and review, and ineffective measures be discarded,
23 and time limits applied for the review of continued current sanctions
24 measures; that any executive branch embargo of United States
25 agricultural commodities and products be subject to the review of
26 Congress; that a new framework be put in place to set policies for the
27 future use of unilateral sanctions; that sanctions be created with
28 specific sunset provisions; and that legislation be approved to
29 implement a producer-compensation program based on the negative impact
30 of sanctions on the sale of agricultural products due to the exports
31 and income hurt due to the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions
32 or embargoes.

33 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
34 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
35 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
36 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the

1 State of Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department
2 of Agriculture.

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