
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8005

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Owen and Snyder

Read first time 01/16/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 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 founding fathers of this nation recognized that land
9 is power and that a centralized federal government with a substantial
10 land base would eventually overwhelm the states and pose a threat to
11 the freedom of the individual; and

12 WHEREAS, The original 13 colonies and the next 15 states admitted
13 to the Union were granted fee title to all and within their borders;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The states admitted to the Union since 1846 were denied
16 the same rights of land ownership granted the states admitted earlier;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United
19 States makes no provision for land ownership by the federal government,
20 other than by purchase from the states of land ". . .for the erection

1 of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful
2 buildings"; and

3 WHEREAS, Acting contrary to the provisions of Article I, section 8
4 of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government
5 withheld property from the states admitted since 1846, making them land
6 poor and unable to determine their own land use and development
7 policies; and

8 WHEREAS, This action has made those states admitted since 1846
9 unequal to other states and subject to unwarranted federal control; and

10 WHEREAS, Restoration of property to which they are historically and
11 constitutionally entitled would empower the land-poor states to
12 determine their own land use policies;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the 104th
14 Congress of the United States right the wrong and transfer to the
15 states, by fee title, all federally controlled property currently held
16 within the states admitted to the Union since 1846.

17 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Congress is urged to then purchase from
18 the newly empowered states land needed to meet the provision of Article
19 I, section 8, United States Constitution.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
24 Washington.

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