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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4001

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Fuhrman, Cole, Casada, Chandler, Silver, Heavey, Ballard, Rasmussen, Ferguson, Fraser, Wineberry, Padden, Broback, Nelson, May, Bray, Mielke, Paris, Beck, Moyer, Morton, Wood, Bowman, Jones, Prentice, Franklin, Brumsickle, Appelwick, Valle, Phillips, Spanel, Betrozoff, Leonard, Jacobsen, Brough, Anderson, Tate, Basich, Wynne, R. King, Hochstatter, P. Johnson, Brekke, Rust, Nealey, Morris, Vance, Sheldon, Peery, Hargrove, D. Sommers, Belcher, Mitchell, Dorn, Pruitt, Forner, Orr, Dellwo, Sprenkle, Kremen and Inslee.

Read first time January 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, 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, Washington residents are very concerned about the great  
9 number of terrible accidents caused by drunk drivers, particularly  
10 youthful drivers, and each year members of the Washington state  
11 legislature receive innumerable requests from their constituents to  
12 strengthen the laws against drunk driving; and

13            WHEREAS, Studies show that alcoholic beverage consumption is  
14 involved in approximately fifty percent of highway accidents, that beer  
15 is the preferred beverage of a majority of the intoxicated drivers  
16 involved in crashes or arrested for driving while intoxicated, and that

1 beer drinking and driving while intoxicated is particularly a problem  
2 among young males; and

3 WHEREAS, The average child spends approximately five hours a week  
4 watching television commercials, many of which are commercials for  
5 alcoholic beverages; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1987 Professors Neil Postman of New York University,  
7 Christine Nystrom of New York University, Lance Strate of the  
8 University of Connecticut, and Charles Weingartner of the University of  
9 South Florida researched the impact of beer commercials and television  
10 watching by children and concluded in a report published by the AAA  
11 foundation for traffic safety that the commercials are a significant  
12 cause of drinking and driving by young drivers and strongly recommended  
13 that the commercials be prohibited;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
15 enact a law prohibiting any alcoholic beverage commercials on  
16 television, or, in the alternative, that Congress prohibit the use of  
17 images of automobiles, racetracks, speedboats, and other references to  
18 driving and speed in alcoholic beverage commercials on television.

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