
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Thorsness, Jesernig, Patterson, Erwin and Metcalf.

Read first time February 12, 1991. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

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, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES 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 Hanford Reservation contains nuclear waste from
10 several decades of nuclear defense operations; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) has chosen
12 to eliminate a materials production mission at Hanford; and

13 WHEREAS, USDOE has repeatedly attempted to eliminate funding for
14 and close the experimental and state-of-the-art research reactor known
15 as the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF); and

16 WHEREAS, The new mission for Hanford centers on being the
17 "environmental flagship" for the USDOE; and

1 WHEREAS, A key element of being the environmental flagship is the
2 concept of technology transfer in which new technology developed to
3 restore contaminated areas is transferred to the private sector for
4 wider utilization; and

5 WHEREAS, Vitrification of contaminated dirt is a promising example
6 of technology transfer; and

7 WHEREAS, The USDOE has recently proposed a delay in constructing
8 the Hanford Vitrification Plant; and

9 WHEREAS, This delay poses a potential threat to the Hanford Tri-
10 Party agreement between USDOE, the Environmental Protection Agency
11 (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology; and

12 WHEREAS, A lawsuit stemming from this action would be time-
13 consuming, costly, detrimental to state and federal cooperation, and
14 possibly delay clean-up activities; and

15 WHEREAS, A recent report from the EPA and the Department of
16 Ecology documented several case studies showing disparities in costs
17 related to planning and characterization of waste clean-up activities
18 at Hanford versus similar private sector examples; and

19 WHEREAS, Recent reports from USDOE have indicated a lack of
20 qualified and trained personnel specializing in nuclear waste cleanup
21 professions;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the USDOE
23 maintain its previous schedule with the Hanford Vitrification Plant,
24 maintain its commitment to the Tri-Party agreement, continue operations
25 and develop new missions at the FFTF, increase the cost-effectiveness
26 of clean-up planning and waste characterization efforts, and provide
27 incentives to allow for more local retraining programs for Hanford
28 workers.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
3 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, the
4 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
6 Washington.