

---

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8020

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Snyder, Conner, McDonald, Johnson, Amondson, Sutherland, Madsen, Rasmussen, McCaslin, Anderson, Vognild, L. Smith, Bailey, von Reichbauer and McMullen.

Read first time March 6, 1991. Under suspension of rules read second and third times March 6, 1991 and passed.

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, Changes in Federal Forest Service management policies are  
9 leading to the loss of twenty thousand timber-related jobs in  
10 Washington state due to declines in the federal timber supply; and

11            WHEREAS, Most of these jobs are located in rural areas of  
12 Washington state and displaced timber workers often have few viable  
13 employment options; and

14            WHEREAS, The people of the United States have in the past been  
15 willing to help retrain other groups of workers adversely affected by  
16 federal decisions; examples include coal miners impacted by the Clean

1 Air Act, and defense workers impacted by recent defense spending cuts;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Those retraining programs currently available to displaced  
4 timber workers are not adequate; the programs do not allow families to  
5 survive the transition period while a worker retrain for a new job nor  
6 do they allow families of displaced timber workers to meet emergency  
7 needs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United  
9 States Congress pass a Timber Workers Fairness Act that will provide  
10 adequate benefits to timber workers impacted by federal decisions. The  
11 benefits should be similar to those provided to workers impacted by  
12 federal trade policies under the Trade Adjustment Act, and federal  
13 environmental policies under the Clean Air Act. The legislation should  
14 have the following components:

15 (1) A training program of adequate duration to provide a transition  
16 to family wage jobs;

17 (2) Training allowances to help families survive through the  
18 retraining program. The allowances should be available to self-  
19 employed individuals as well as people who have not worked enough hours  
20 to be eligible for Unemployment. Families eligible for unemployment  
21 insurance should be eligible for an extension of up to fifty-two weeks  
22 if they are participating in training; and

23 (3) Provision of support services to provide for needs such as  
24 child care, transportation, and emergency medical services.

25 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
26 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
27 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
28 House of Representatives, and to each member of Congress from the State  
29 of Washington.