

2 **ESSJM 8016** - H COMM AMD **ADOPTED 4-15-93**

3 By Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development

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5 On page 1, beginning on line 1, strike everything through  
6 "Washington." on page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

7 "TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
8 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
11 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO THE FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY  
12 AND INSPECTION SERVICE, AND TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND  
13 PREVENTION, AND TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION:

14 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
15 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
16 represent and petition as follows:

17 WHEREAS, A great public health alarm has been caused in Washington  
18 state with over four hundred fifty people confirmed as having  
19 contracted Escherichia coli 0157:H7 since early December of 1992; and

20 WHEREAS, E. coli 0157:H7 has caused the death of three children,  
21 over one hundred fifty people have been hospitalized as of February 20,  
22 1993, and thirty children have suffered hemolytic uremic syndrome, a  
23 serious side effect that causes kidney dysfunction and affects the  
24 blood clotting system; and

25 WHEREAS, People have contracted the infection by eating  
26 insufficiently cooked hamburger that had this particular strain of E.  
27 coli bacteria which contaminated the meat during or after the time of  
28 slaughter; and

29 WHEREAS, The extent that this newly detected strain of highly toxic  
30 bacteria is causing infections elsewhere in the United States is not  
31 accurately known because most other states have not designated E. coli  
32 0157:H7 as a reportable disease; and

33 WHEREAS, Though citizens of the United States have enjoyed the  
34 safest food supply in the world, this outbreak has eroded confidence in  
35 food safety in general and meat inspection in particular, and unless  
36 the problem is fully addressed, additional outbreaks are likely to  
37 occur;

1       NOW, THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully pray that the  
2 appropriate federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the Food  
3 Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of  
4 Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the  
5 Food and Drug Administration form a task force to: (1) Promptly and  
6 fully investigate and monitor outbreaks of E. coli 0157:H7 throughout  
7 the United States in cooperation with state and local governments; (2)  
8 examine the full food chain process from farm to table to determine how  
9 improvements may be made to better guarantee the safety of our food  
10 supply; (3) examine whether meat and meat products imported into this  
11 country comply with comparable inspection and health standards as does  
12 domestically processed meat; (4) designate E. coli 0157:H7 as a  
13 reportable disease throughout the nation; and (5) start the process  
14 needed to update the Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code to  
15 reflect the new knowledge and technology that impact food safety.

16       BE IT RESOLVED, That the federal Food Safety and Inspection Service  
17 is requested to provide a written report to the Washington state  
18 legislature in January 1994 of the changes and improvements that have  
19 been accomplished to address this public health issue; and

20       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
22 States, Mike Espy, Secretary of the United States Department of  
23 Agriculture, the federal Food Safety and Inspection Service, the  
24 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug  
25 Administration, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
26 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
27 State of Washington."

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