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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Delvin, Rockefeller, and Kline

Read first time 02/05/09. Referred to Committee on Environment, Water & Energy.

1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, 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 in southeast Washington state is  
10 an enduring memorial to Washington's contribution to the nation's  
11 efforts that brought a close to World War II and to the Cold War  
12 nuclear weapons program; and

13            WHEREAS, America's nuclear weapons program left the Hanford  
14 Reservation as the most contaminated site in North America and one of  
15 the world's most complex and difficult clean-up sites; and

16            WHEREAS, It is essential that environmental actions to cleanup the  
17 groundwater and soil proceed expeditiously to protect the citizens and  
18 the environment of Washington state; and

19            WHEREAS, In 1989, the United States Department of Energy, United  
20 States Environmental Protection Agency, and Washington state signed the

1 Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, also known as the  
2 Tri-Party Agreement, which provided legally enforceable milestones to  
3 cleanup Hanford over a 30-year period; and

4 WHEREAS, The budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2009 was \$600 million  
5 less than needed to keep the cleanup on schedule, and at this funding  
6 level it would require 140 years to complete the cleanup of the Hanford  
7 Reservation; and

8 WHEREAS, The contamination at the Hanford Reservation continues to  
9 place the public and the environment at risk and threatens the Columbia  
10 river, along which over one million people living in 42 cities and  
11 towns, where 8000 farms valued at \$6.4 billion are situated and 175,000  
12 acres of land are irrigated with water directly from the river with a  
13 value of at least \$31 million per year; and

14 WHEREAS, Below the Hanford Reservation on the Columbia river,  
15 economic activities valued at \$200 million per year are at risk, as  
16 well as commercial fishery harvests of 240,000 fish per year, valued at  
17 \$4 million and 25,000 companies in Washington that provide 280,000 jobs  
18 and a payroll of \$9.5 billion;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
20 federal government fully fund the needs of a sustained environmental  
21 cleanup in keeping with federal and state laws and the Tri-Party  
22 Agreement, and provide for the protection of the Columbia river and the  
23 health and welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington.

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

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