
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8016

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Holmquist, Schoesler, Delvin, Becker, Carrell, Morton, McCaslin, Parlette, Stevens, Swecker, King, Zarelli, and Hewitt

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:

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, The economic prosperity of the United States is best
9 served by embracing individual liberty, representative democracy, and
10 free-market economics, as has been the tradition of the American people
11 since prior to the formation of an independent country; and

12 WHEREAS, We recognize the truth of human nature, that failure is
13 critical to growth, and the right of people to innovate, the freedom to
14 experiment, and the freedom to succeed, must be equally accompanied by
15 the freedom to fail; and

16 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan once said, "We who live in free
17 market societies believe that growth, prosperity and ultimately human
18 fulfillment, are created from the bottom up, not the government down.
19 Only when the human spirit is allowed to invent and create, only when
20 individuals are given a personal stake in deciding economic policies

1 and benefiting from their success - only then can societies remain
2 economically alive, dynamic, progressive, and free. Trust the people.
3 This is the one irrefutable lesson of the entire postwar period
4 contradicting the notion that rigid government controls are essential
5 to economic development"; and

6 WHEREAS, Our Declaration of Independence states that we hold it to
7 be a self-evident truth that we are each endowed by our Creator with
8 the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which was
9 clearly understood at the time to include property ownership, and that
10 governments are instituted to secure these rights; and

11 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence further lists among the
12 crimes of King George that "He has erected a multitude of new offices,
13 and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out
14 their substance;" and

15 WHEREAS, The Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution
16 reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the
17 Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the
18 states respectively, or to the people"; and

19 WHEREAS, This country's free-market principles and private
20 ownership of capital have made it the strongest, most prosperous, and
21 freest nation in the history of the Earth; and

22 WHEREAS, Today that legacy of freedom - independent people and free
23 and open markets - is under serious threat from out-of-control
24 spending, unprecedented government growth and encroachment into the
25 free market, and overtaxation; and

26 WHEREAS, Our current economic crisis is, in part, due to government
27 interference in the housing market and massive debt created by
28 overspending and the unbridled growth of government; and

29 WHEREAS, This problem was compounded by irresponsible spending at
30 the state level during periods of economic boom, especially in
31 Washington state; and

32 WHEREAS, The government response to this crisis has been one
33 massive bailout after another, all on the backs of the taxpayers; and

34 WHEREAS, The September 2008 \$29.5 billion bailout of Bear Stearns,
35 even after adjusting for inflation, was nearly thirty times what it
36 cost to build both the Hoover Dam and Panama Canal combined; and

37 WHEREAS, That bailout was immediately followed by a \$97.2 billion
38 bailout of Bank of America, a \$97.4 billion bailout for auto companies,

1 and a \$112 billion bailout for AIG. In comparison, the United States
2 only spent \$115 billion on the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after
3 World War II; and

4 WHEREAS, That was still not enough, and taxpayers were forced to
5 provide \$139 billion for General Electric and \$235 billion for
6 CitiGroup, making a grand total of \$710 billion to bail out banks and
7 big corporations; and

8 WHEREAS, Taxpayers are spending another \$300 billion for homeowners
9 who cannot pay their mortgages, \$400 billion to prop up Fannie Mae and
10 Freddie Mac, \$700 billion to buy up bad loans through the Toxic Asset
11 Relief Program, and \$787 billion for the economic "stimulus" or
12 spending plan; and

13 WHEREAS, All of this government spending to date totals more than
14 \$4 trillion, which is eight times more than the "New Deal" and even
15 more than the \$3.6 trillion spent on World War II; and

16 WHEREAS, The government has committed to spend up to an additional
17 \$7.8 trillion, for a total of \$12 trillion being spent on this crisis;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, History has proven that no nation can spend its way into
20 prosperity; and

21 WHEREAS, This unprecedented level of spending will leave a legacy
22 of big government dependency and national debt for generations of
23 Americans to come; and

24 WHEREAS, Many proposals both in Olympia and in Washington, D.C.,
25 attempt to pay for this reckless and irresponsible government spending
26 by singling out specific individuals, income levels, and businesses for
27 a disproportionate burden; and

28 WHEREAS, Karl Marx's slogan "To each according to his need, from
29 each according to his ability" is the first step in the ultimate
30 erosion of the American principle that each individual is entitled to
31 "the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness,"
32 and equal justice under the law; and

33 WHEREAS, Political leaders in both Olympia and in Washington, D.C.,
34 have proposed massive cap-and-tax proposals that would further cripple
35 our economies, destroy whole industries, cause the cost of electricity,
36 heating fuel, and gasoline for consumers to skyrocket, and lead to a
37 loss of personal freedom for individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, The responsible taxpayers of this country and the state of
2 Washington are tired of bailing out irresponsible governments, banks,
3 businesses, and individuals, and having their liberties constrained by
4 a completely unrestrained federal and state government, and have
5 demonstrated as much through numerous spontaneous and planned "Tea
6 Party" protests;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the
8 United States Government divest the American people from all private-
9 sector corporate entities that received bailout funds as soon as is
10 practically possible; reduce the size of government to its proper
11 Constitutional size by limiting its functions to its proper
12 Constitutional role; reduce marginal tax rates to spur economic growth,
13 as was successfully done by President John F. Kennedy, President Ronald
14 W. Reagan, and President George W. Bush in 2001 and 2003; and reject
15 all further attempts to redistribute wealth through the tax code or by
16 any other means, as "spreading the wealth" is completely alien to our
17 national character and founding principles.

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

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