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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Hewitt, Kohl-Welles, Holmquist Newbry, Conway, Parlette, Fraser, Kilmer, White, and Hatfield

Read first time 02/18/11. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

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 LABOR:

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, Throughout the current economic downturn, Washington State  
10 has been able to provide millions of dollars of unemployment insurance  
11 benefits to hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers in the state  
12 without sacrificing the solvency of the state's unemployment insurance  
13 trust fund; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington has managed the state's unemployment insurance  
15 trust fund in an exceptionally prudent and responsible manner, allowing  
16 the state to fully pay unemployment insurance benefits without seeking  
17 a loan from the federal unemployment account; and

18 WHEREAS, As of February 9, 2011, thirty states and one territory  
19 have outstanding loans from the federal unemployment account totaling  
20 over 42 billion dollars; and

1       WHEREAS, Federal and state unemployment insurance taxes in states  
2 with outstanding loans must be raised significantly to pay back the  
3 federal unemployment account loans and interest due on the loans; and

4       WHEREAS, Current legislative proposals seek various changes to  
5 unemployment loan repayment provisions, including allowing states with  
6 outstanding loans to forego or delay interest payments; and

7       WHEREAS, Providing relief from interest and other payments in  
8 states that have failed to adequately fund their unemployment insurance  
9 trust fund and borrowed from the federal unemployment account has the  
10 effect of penalizing Washington state and Washington state unemployment  
11 tax paying employers who have maintained a healthy and solvent trust  
12 fund throughout the economic recession;

13       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
14 United States Department of Labor provide Washington state and  
15 Washington state unemployment tax paying employers with federal  
16 unemployment tax relief or a financial benefit equal to any benefit  
17 provided to employers in states who have had to borrow from the federal  
18 unemployment account.

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

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