TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH STATE'S
LEGISLATURE:

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

WHEREAS, Our State, as most others, faces the most severe economic
crisis since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics cites an
October 2011 unemployment rate of 9 percent in the State of Washington,
yet closer to 30 percent are unemployed if residents who have exhausted
their benefits and given up hope of finding a job are counted; and

WHEREAS, The poverty rate in Washington State is 11.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, State support for community-based businesses that hire
locally, and the ability of workers to earn wages that exceed a
subsistence rate, are keys to economic recovery in Washington State; and
WHEREAS, Since fiscal year 2001, taxpayers in the State of Washington have paid 26 billion dollars toward the total spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Taxpayers in the State of Washington will pay an additional 3.5 billion dollars toward total Iraq and Afghanistan war spending for fiscal year 2011, bringing the total war spending bill for Washington State taxpayers to 29.5 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, One year of taxpayer war spending dollars could have alternately built our state infrastructure by creating 48,461 school teacher jobs, hiring 45,205 firefighters, creating enough jobs to convert 1.3 million households to solar energy, creating 42,585 new police or sheriff's patrol officer positions, or providing 113,000 four-year university scholarships; and

WHEREAS, 11.7 percent of soldiers who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan are unemployed, with many having inadequate support to adjust to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Counties with military facilities are experiencing the highest foreclosure rates in Washington State, and the already high number of homeless veterans is increasing; and

WHEREAS, In February 2011, the State Legislature passed House Bill No. 1432 relating to veterans' relief by permitting private employers to exercise a voluntary veterans' preference in employment; and

WHEREAS, For every 1 billion dollars spent on the military 11,600 jobs are created; yet for the same 1 billion dollars 17,100 jobs are created by investments in clean energy, 19,600 jobs are created by funding health care, or 29,100 jobs are created from spending on education; and

WHEREAS, United States military spending has more than doubled since 2000; and

WHEREAS, The proposed fiscal year 2012 military budget is 703 billion dollars, with military spending by other agencies raising that total to more than 1 trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Adjusting for inflation, the level of funding proposed for the base defense budget in the fiscal year 2012 request comprises 60 percent of the national discretionary budget, the highest level since World War II; and

WHEREAS, The United States military budget presently represents 43
percent of worldwide military spending, distantly followed by China
(7.3 percent of world share), the United Kingdom (3.7 percent), France
(3.6 percent), and Russia (3.6 percent); and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Governor and Legislature have had to
cut nearly 10.5 billion dollars from current and projected spending
with another 1.4 billion dollars in reductions looming, resulting in
significant job losses and cuts to vital programs; and

WHEREAS, Projected revenues for Washington State continue to
plummet, depleting our state reserves; and

WHEREAS, This drain on the public treasury is bleeding our state
and forcing increasingly severe cuts in vital social programs and
public services, resulting in the inability of state government to
support job creation and meet the most basic needs of our people, while
producing ever-greater debt that will be borne by future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
States Congress and the President change course by ending the war in
Afghanistan: Dramatically shifting our national priorities to create
stable jobs at living wages for all who seek employment; restoring
vital social programs and public services; rebuilding our nation's
deteriorating infrastructure; and putting our nation on an
environmentally sustainable, ecologically responsible path that
addresses the challenge of climate change and environmental degradation
while reinvigorating jobs and our economy.

BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
Representatives of each state's legislature, the President of the
United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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