

Petition to Governor Gary Locke & the Legislature of the sovereign State of Washington

This petition asks the state government to recognize as un-Constitutional the act entitled “Joint Resolution authorizing use of force against Iraq” because it purports to allow the President to make war against a sovereign state with which we are formally at peace.

We are, therefore, demanding a joint memorial by our state to uphold the Constitution by declaring that war may not be made against Iraq by the President in the name of the People of the State of Washington, or of the United States, without a declaration of war by Congress.

Search the Internet for:
1798 Virginia and
Kentucky Resolutions
drafted by James Madison
and Thomas Jefferson.

Return all signature sheets
at **Olympia Capitol
mass gathering Fri.
Jan. 24th, 2003**, or
by mail to: Box 6316
Olympia, WA 98507-6316
(360) 866-2278

- We the undersigned, citizens of the State of Washington and of the United States of America, under emergency conditions, with United States forces poised and declared ready to attack a sovereign nation with which we are formally at peace, do humbly approach the most Hon. Gary Locke and the Legislature of the State of Washington, to issue such immediate Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions that hold:
- That the State of Washington does unequivocally and most solemnly declare a warm attachment to the Union of the States; and that for this end it is the duty of the States, on behalf of their people, to watch over and oppose every infraction of those principles which constitute the only basis of that Union, because the faithful observance of this duty can alone secure its existence and the public happiness;
- That the several States, in forming the United States of America, not united on the principle of unlimited submission to a new general government, first united by a compact of Articles of Confederation, and later by a compact under the style and title of a Constitution for the United States, and of amendments thereto; they constituted a general government for special purposes and delegated to it certain definite and specified powers, each State reserving to itself the residuary mass of right to their own self-government; when the general government assumes, or pretends to legislate unto itself, undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force;
- That the powers of the general government result from the compact to which the states are parties, as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting the compact; and are only valid when authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact; and that in case of a deliberate, palpable, and dangerous exercise of other powers, not granted by the said compact, the states who are parties thereto have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits, the authorities, rights and liberties appertaining to them;
- That to our Constitution each State acceded as a State, and is an integral part, its co-States forming, as to itself, the other party: that the body politic, or government, created by this compact was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made its

discretion, and not the Constitution, the measure of its powers; but that, as in all other cases of compact among sovereign powers having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of interposition and redress;

- That the Articles of Confederation did hold that "*No State shall engage in any war without... a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled...*"; the Constitution did affirm that "*The Congress shall have power to... declare war ...*"; mindful of the founders' sufferings at law under royal authority, and the unexplained failures by the executive on September 11th, 2001, and its subsequent hurried taking of extraordinary powers, the executive has never been, and is not, by any compact among the states, granted the power to declare war; Congress, a constituent part of our republican government, is not empowered to reconstitute government, or to grant, convey or otherwise surrender the powers delegated to it by the states to another branch of government; the act of Congress, passed this October, 2002, and signed by the President, entitled "*Joint Resolution authorizing use of force against Iraq*", in pretending to grant to the executive the power to make war against a sovereign nation with which we are formally at peace, is altogether without authority, void, and of no force;
- That a spirit has thus been manifested by the general government to enlarge its powers from the compact among the states which defines them, and implications have appeared of a design to increase the power of the executive, so as to consolidate the states by degrees into one sovereignty, the obvious tendency and inevitable consequence of which would be to transform the present republican system of the United States into an absolute, or at best a mixed, monarchy; efforts to operate government outside of, and with contempt for, our laws, and our Constitution, threatens the loss of our sovereign rights, liberties and privileges at law, and our people with despotism and tyranny;
- That the utmost sincere affection for our brothers and sisters of the other states and of the world, and the truest anxiety for the perpetuation of our liberties under God and the Constitution, does demand a Proclamation on behalf of this, the State of Washington, that the aforesaid act is unconstitutional; and to take such necessary and proper measures for informing, and co-operating with, other states in maintaining the Authorities, Rights, and Liberties, referred to, of the States respectively, or of the People, through immediate and official proclamations that under the Constitution, and for the protection thereof, the states are duty bound to oppose all acts of war by President George W. Bush against Iraq, or intrusions or aggressions upon its sovereign soil, under the circumstances presented; and to order that the President immediately cease such actions in the name of the State of Washington and of the United States;
- That the Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions herein petitioned for shall be issued immediately and without delay by your office, or offices, in the name of the People of the State of Washington, and to immediately transmit a copy of said Proclamations, Orders and Resolutions to the Governors of each of the other states and also to the Legislatures of the other States and the Senators and Representatives representing the State of Washington in the Congress of the United States.