

**First Regular Session
Sixty-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. M03-1059.01 Tim Cusick

SJM03-008

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 03-008

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE**
102 **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION REQUIRING THAT THE TOTAL**
103 **AMOUNT OF ALL FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY CONGRESS**
104 **FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR SHALL NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL OF ALL**
105 **ESTIMATED FEDERAL REVENUES FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR.**

1 WHEREAS, In 1998, the federal budget reported its first surplus,
2 \$69 billion, since 1969, and from 1998 through 2001 the surplus
3 continued to increase until it reached \$256 billion in 2001; and

4 WHEREAS, The last time the United States had 4 surpluses in a
5 row was over 70 years ago, from 1927-30; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2001, the budget surpluses, which were
7 projected to continue until 2008, have disappeared, and the budget deficit
8 for the 2003 fiscal year is now projected to be at least \$304 billion; and

9 WHEREAS, Congressional overspending and the ongoing war
10 with Iraq could increase the budget deficit for the 2003 fiscal year to over

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 \$500 billion; and

2 WHEREAS, The federal public debt has increased and is now
3 more than \$6 trillion, an amount equaling approximately \$22,000 for
4 every man, woman, and child in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level is lowering
6 our standard of living, destroying jobs, and endangering economic
7 opportunity now and for future generations; and

8 WHEREAS, Continued deficit spending demonstrates an
9 unwillingness or inability of both the federal executive and legislative
10 branches to spend no more than available revenues; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal government's unlimited ability to borrow
12 raises questions about fundamental principles and responsibilities of
13 government, with potentially profound consequences for the nation and
14 its people, making it an appropriate subject for limitation by the
15 Constitution of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States vests the
17 ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove constitutional
18 amendments with the people, as represented by their elected state
19 legislatures, and opposition in the United States Congress repeatedly has
20 thwarted the will of the people that a balanced budget amendment to the
21 Constitution be submitted to the states for ratification; now, therefore,

22 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly*
23 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24 That the General Assembly of the state of Colorado requests the
25 United States Congress to expeditiously pass, and propose to the
26 legislatures of the several states for ratification, an amendment to the
27 United States Constitution requiring that, in the absence of a national
28 emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for
29 any fiscal year shall not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues
30 for that fiscal year.

31 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
32 to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of
33 the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of
34 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader
35 of the Senate, and to each member of Colorado's congressional
36 delegation.