

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 17

By COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

April 22

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 2 through 31 and insert:

2 “To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-  
3 sembled:

4 “We, your memorialists, the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-  
5 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 “Whereas some 13 populations of fish are listed as threatened or endangered species under the  
7 Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

8 “Whereas California sea lions are having a significant negative impact on the recovery of many  
9 salmon and steelhead populations in the Pacific Northwest; and

10 “Whereas California sea lions have been protected since 1972 by the federal Marine Mammal  
11 Protection Act; and

12 “Whereas populations of California sea lions have remained unchecked and have grown from  
13 10,000 in the 1950s to about 300,000 currently, and that population increase has been reflected in  
14 growing numbers of California sea lions occurring in the Pacific Northwest; and

15 “Whereas substantial opportunities for human interaction exist for recreational and sport  
16 anglers, and significant safety concerns related to these interactions are escalating each year; and

17 “Whereas California sea lion foraging areas have expanded to Bonneville Dam and throughout  
18 the Willamette River up to Willamette Falls; and

19 “Whereas while in the Columbia River and other Oregon rivers, the California sea lion forage  
20 base is primarily salmon, resulting in a conservatively estimated take of more than 25,000 salmon  
21 each year; and

22 “Whereas growing, healthy and robust West Coast pinniped populations are increasing, as are  
23 their predation levels on threatened and endangered salmonids in many areas; and

24 “Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of  
25 Fish and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the National  
26 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States  
27 Army Corps of Engineers, have performed extensive research to document and track this growing  
28 problem and conducted years of tests and programs to reduce the number of California sea lions and  
29 their predation rates, which have had limited success; and

30 “Whereas all reasonable and known nonlethal means of removal have been tried; and

31 “Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of  
32 Fish and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have concluded that additional re-  
33 moval options are necessary to gain control of the California sea lion situation, reduce the risk of  
34 increasing the predation losses and reduce safety concerns related to human interaction; and

35 “Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of

1 Fish and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game appealed to the National Oceanic and  
2 Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service for authorization to remove known  
3 predatory California sea lions foraging in the Columbia River; and

4 "Whereas the State of Oregon also worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
5 Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service in the late 1990s, as directed by Congress under  
6 the 1994 amendments to the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, to study, evaluate, and report  
7 to Congress on the negative impacts of pinniped predation on West Coast salmonids; and

8 "Whereas the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife worked with the National Oceanic  
9 and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare a report on these  
10 problems to Congress in 1999 and make recommendations for an amendment to the federal Marine  
11 Mammal Protection Act that could help management agencies address these predation problems; and

12 "Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries  
13 Service 1999 report was submitted to Congress more than a decade ago and Congress has taken no  
14 action to date to acknowledge the work of the states and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
15 Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service by adopting the recommendations that Congress  
16 asked for and received in the report; now, therefore,"

17 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 5.

18 Delete lines 7 through 11 and insert:

19 "That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, respectfully request and  
20 strongly urge Congress to undertake the revisions to the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act  
21 recommended in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries  
22 Service 1999 report submitted to Congress to help state and federal fish and wildlife management  
23 agencies with the growing problem of pinniped predation on threatened and endangered salmonids  
24 in inland waters by providing new management options and tools not currently provided in the fed-  
25 eral Marine Mammal Protection Act and to approve the immediate removal by any means necessary  
26 of California sea lions in the Columbia River and other Oregon rivers during salmon runs; and be  
27 it further

28 "Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the United States Secretary of Com-  
29 merce and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.".