

Senate Joint Memorial 201

Sponsored by Senator BAERTSCHIGER JR; Senators BOQUIST, CLOSE, FERRIOLI, GIROD, HANSELL, KNOPP, KRUSE, OLSEN, THOMSEN, WHITSETT, WINTERS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges President and Congress to pursue Oregon and California Railroad grant land management reforms.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the unique re-vested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, commonly known as O&C lands, which are managed predominantly by the Bureau of Land Management, were once privately owned but were returned to federal ownership in 1916 and now constitute more than 2.4 million acres of federal lands that are intended to be used for sustained timber production and county stability; and

Whereas O&C lands once provided revenues vital to the economic survival of many county governments in Oregon; and

Whereas timber harvests have been reduced by 90 percent over the last 20 years, which has resulted in a drastic decline in revenues from those lands and left many of the 18 Oregon counties in which O&C lands are located without adequate revenues to provide essential public services and employment opportunities; and

Whereas because of the loss of federal timber sales revenue, the counties have suffered a perilous loss of jobs and infrastructure due to sawmill and peeling mill closures and the disappearance of other forest-based industries and have been forced to lay off law enforcement officers, close county correctional facilities and dramatically reduce other county services; and

Whereas current management of O&C lands has caused significant increases in the risk of forest fires and the production of greenhouse gases due to those fires; and

Whereas members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation have proposed plans that would result in stable county revenues in an effort to avoid the financial crises currently confronting many Oregon counties and assist in the revival of the ailing economies in the 18 O&C counties; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, urge the President and the Congress of the United States of America to reform federal management of re-vested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands to provide certainty and predictability to Oregon counties in which O&C lands are located; and be it further

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial with original signatures shall be sent to the President
2 of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.
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