

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 12

Sponsored by Representative WITT; Representatives BARKER, BARNHART, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BOQUIST, BRUUN, BUCKLEY, BURLEY, BUTLER, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, COWAN, DALLUM, C EDWARDS, D EDWARDS, ESQUIVEL, FLORES, GALIZIO, GARRARD, GELSER, GILLIAM, GILMAN, GIROD, GREENLICK, HANNA, HOLVEY, HUNT, JENSON, KOMP, KRIEGER, KRUMMEL, LIM, MAURER, MERKLEY, MINNIS, MORGAN, NATHANSON, NELSON, OLSON, READ, RICHARDSON, RILEY, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLE, SCOTT, SHIELDS, G SMITH, P SMITH, THATCHER, WHISNANT, Senators ATKINSON, AVAKIAN, BATES, BEYER, BROWN, DECKERT, FERRIOLI, G GEORGE, L GEORGE, GORDLY, JOHNSON, KRUSE, METSGER, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORRISSETTE, MORSE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, SCHRADER, STARR, VERGER, WALKER, WESTLUND, WHITSETT (at the request of Bill Kluting, Carpenters Industrial Council)

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-fourth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the national forest system, managed by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, was established in 1905 and has grown to 193 million acres of federal lands of which more than 15 million acres are in Oregon; and

Whereas more than 12 million acres of federal forests are in dire need of biomass removal; and

Whereas millions of these acres are in category 3 and 2 fire classifications; and

Whereas many of these same acres are overgrown and have excessive fuel loads on the ground that may lead to catastrophic forest fires and destruction from insects and disease; and

Whereas our rural communities in Oregon have been devastated for 25 years for lack of forest restoration and timber harvesting contracts; and

Whereas this has caused the loss of thousands of jobs in these rural communities and destroyed the economic base for these towns, counties and school districts; and

Whereas long-term, 15-year contracts, if allowed for removal of biomass from these federal forests, could provide fuel for cogeneration plants producing renewable electricity and steam; and

Whereas these plants would create thousands of jobs in the rural areas and would also provide small diameter logs for our existing mills, thus saving jobs; and

Whereas the results of these projects would reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, especially from foreign countries, would provide a means to return our federal forests back to a healthy condition, reducing the danger of catastrophic fire that increases our fire fighting costs, would improve public safety, would improve air and water quality and wildlife habitat and would safeguard a valuable natural resource; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States of America to pass legislation to allow the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enter into long-term, 15-year contracts allowing the removal of biomass from federal forests in Oregon in order to provide fuel for cogeneration plants; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House May 2, 2007

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 24, 2007

President of Senate