

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)

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 Congress to allow Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to enter into 15-year contracts for biomass removal from federal forests.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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