

House Memorial 2

Sponsored by Representative G SMITH; Representative BUTLER

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**.

Requests that federal government restore stability and predictability to annual payments made to rural counties of Oregon containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by Bureau of Land Management for use by counties for benefit of public schools, law enforcement and other public purposes.

HOUSE MEMORIAL

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

We, your memorialists, the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas over 15 million acres of land in Oregon belong to the federal government; and

Whereas Congress recognized that, by its decision to secure these lands in federal ownership, the counties in which these lands are situated would be deprived of revenues they would otherwise receive if the lands were held in private ownership; and

Whereas these same counties have expended public funds to provide services such as public education, law enforcement and fire protection that directly benefit these federal lands and the people who use them; and

Whereas over 100 years ago the federal government made a commitment to Oregon's rural counties to dedicate a percentage of the revenues derived from National Forest System lands in Oregon to those counties in which federal lands were situated; and

Whereas in recent years the principal source of these revenues, federal timber sales, has been sharply curtailed and, as the volume of timber sold annually has decreased, so too have revenues shared with the affected counties; and

Whereas the authority under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for this commitment to Oregon's rural counties is expiring; and

Whereas there is a need to stabilize education and road maintenance funding through predictable payments to the affected counties and through other opportunities associated with maintenance and stewardship of federal lands; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the United States Congress honor its commitment by restoring stability and predictability to the annual payments made to Oregon's rural counties for use by those counties for the benefit of public schools, law enforcement and other public purposes; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker

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 of the House of Representatives and each member of Oregon's Congressional Delegation.

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