

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 100

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, ETHICS AND RULES (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rural Policy)

To 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 special legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas Oregon is a diverse state in many ways that strengthen us; and

Whereas economic and geographic diversity challenges us to meet the needs of all communities, whether urban or rural; and

Whereas rural Oregon is a unique, vast area whose beauty and natural resources are appreciated by all Oregonians, whether urban or rural; and

Whereas there are degrees of ruralness marked by distances to neighboring communities and density of population; and

Whereas Oregonians who live and work in rural communities contribute to the strength of the state's economy beyond their number; and

Whereas a natural resource base has been the foundation of Oregon's rural economy and that industry has changed dramatically over the past two decades; and

Whereas rural Oregonians are stewards of the land and natural resources and many rural communities are islands surrounded by public lands; and

Whereas rural Oregonians show a nature of independence and self-reliance that contributes to the character of the state; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of Oregon to have strong, viable rural communities and economies; and

Whereas it is critical to preserve, maintain and enhance the heritage of rural Oregon; now, therefore,

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

(1) We express support for all rural Oregonians and acknowledge the challenges that they face. We call on Oregon to work deliberately to assist rural Oregon counties faced with the loss of federal funds. We also respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to make good on the obligation of the federal government to make our counties financially strong, either through the reauthorization and extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393) or through the active and responsible management of the federal lands within our borders.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House February 11, 2008

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 21, 2008

President of Senate