

Enrolled
Senate Joint Memorial 17

Sponsored by Senators PROZANSKI, KRUSE, VERGER (at the request of Douglas Forest Protective Association and Coos Forest Protective Association)

To the President of the United States and the Secretary of Labor:

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

Whereas nearly half the State of Oregon is forested land, providing clean water, wildlife habitat and employment opportunities for thousands of Oregon residents; and

Whereas the management and protection of these forests requires trained and experienced professionals; and

Whereas several state agencies and private entities have extensive experience safely training and employing 16- to 18-year-old youths in forest protection and management; and

Whereas the education and training of forest management professionals requires years of education and practical experience currently available as early as high school; and

Whereas the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor has enacted regulations limiting forestry-related employment of minors between 16 and 18 years of age; and

Whereas the prohibitions limit activities relating to forest fire prevention, forestry services and timber tract management; and

Whereas the prohibitions restrict the clearing of fire trails and roads, the construction, maintenance, and patrolling of fire lines, the maintenance of firefighting equipment and the duties of fire lookouts when performed in conjunction with or in support of efforts to extinguish a forest fire; and

Whereas the prohibitions include work performed in reforestation and in timber cruising, surveying, economics, marketing and engineering; and

Whereas these prohibitions curtail high school programs that train interested youths in forestry work, youth corrections programs designed to give juveniles productive skills and certain projects funded by Titles II and III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly is concerned that these new regulations unduly restrict safe and effective education and training opportunities, particularly in rural Oregon, and limit job skills development and career opportunities for youth in rural communities; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor take action to lessen restrictions on forestry-related employment opportunities for youths in Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of Labor and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by Senate April 19, 2011

Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 9, 2011

Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House