

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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**Action:** Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed  
**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 1  
**Yeas:** Atkinson, Edwards, Girod, Starr, Beyer  
**Nays:** 0  
**Exc.:** Burdick  
**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 2/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges the President and Congress of the United States to allow Oregon counties to manage revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands located in counties or to enact the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Economic distress in many Oregon counties
- Potential economic benefit to counties
- History of management of lands
- Environmental concerns

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Revises whereas clauses. Changes request of Congress and President from either-or option to both transferring title to lands to the counties without cost and long-term lease of the lands to the counties for a token amount. Adds as option to Congress and President enactment of the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan proposed by Representatives DeFazio, Schrader and Walden.

**BACKGROUND:** Congress established a land grant in 1866 to promote the rapid completion of the Oregon and California Railroad between Portland and San Francisco. In 1916, Congress took back title of about 2.9 million acres of the land after the company violated the terms of the grant; Congress also revested about 93,000 acres of Coos Bay Wagon Road lands in 1919 for similar reasons. In 1937, Congress passed the O&C Lands Act (P.L. 75-405) to put the lands under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide for permanent forest protection, protection of watersheds and regulation of stream flow, contribution toward the economic stability of local communities and the timber industry, creation of recreational facilities, and provisions for reimbursing the Oregon and California counties for the loss of tax revenue from the lands.