



**OREGON
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Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC)

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Oregon Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development

SJM10

Testimony of Oregon Wild

Senator Roblan, Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Robert Klavins, I am the Wildlands and Wildlife Advocate for Oregon Wild. On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, I want to thank the members of this Committee for your work to find a solution to the budget shortfalls facing some Oregon counties.

This memorial, and other proposals to remove public lands in Western Oregon from federal oversight in order to aggressively expand logging, have enormous implications for Oregon's clean drinking water, salmon, and tourism and outdoor recreation economy. The actions called for by the measure would also have serious unintended consequences in regards to new restrictions on state and private land management in Oregon, and for Oregon's state budget.

Oregon Wild believes there are a number of very serious problems with this joint memorial, and as it is currently drafted we must strongly oppose it.

- First, the logging-only approach of this memorial undercuts efforts by US Senator Ron Wyden to craft a long-term solution to the expiration of the vital Secure Rural Schools program. Last October, Senator Wyden issued a set of principles outlining what he felt would be required for legislation to pass the US Senate. The contents of this joint memorial are strongly at odds with Senator Wyden's outline for a balanced approach to the problem, and would serve to undercut his efforts in the US Senate.
- Voters in several Western Oregon counties are currently considering local levies and other measures aimed at addressing budget shortfalls. This memorial would send a signal to county voters that these difficult, but vital, tax measures are unnecessary and that aggressive public lands logging can solve the problem. This is unhelpful for a variety of reasons, not the least of which that it is highly unlikely that Congress will ever enact the measures that this memorial calls for.
- This memorial fails to consider the findings of Governor Kitzhaber's recent panel on County Payments and O&C land management, which found that there was no way to generate the revenue needed without violating environmental protection laws like the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

- This memorial fails to recognize the inherent conflict between aggressively expanded logging, including clear-cutting, on America's public lands in Western Oregon, and the inevitable negative consequences to salmon, clean water, and Oregon's tourism and recreation industries. It does not voice support for protecting any of these values, which are all vital to the long-term economic and environmental health of our state.
- Finally, this memorial could have serious unintended consequences. The action's called for under the measure would dramatically weaken the Northwest Forest Plan in Oregon. Though it is unpopular with some in the logging industry, the plan has provided regulatory certainty for private timberland owners in Oregon. Because federal lands are managed under strong conservation standards, state and private landowners have been subject to more relaxed standards under laws like the federal Endangered Species Act. Were the actions called for by this memorial to take place, they would spark a new round of litigation and conflict over forestry, likely resulting in new restrictions on state and private lands logging.

For these and other reasons, Oregon Wild would strongly urge the members of this committee to vote no on this memorial as it is currently written.