

Senate Joint Memorial 6

Sponsored by Senators ROBLAN, FERRIOLI, KRUSE, JOHNSON, GIROD, Representatives HANNA, MCLANE, BARNHART (at the request of Joint Task Force on County Payments)

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.

Urges President and Congress of United States of America to allow Oregon counties to manage revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands located in counties.

JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

Whereas for thousands of years before Euro-American contact, tribal governments antecedent to Oregon's federally-recognized tribes, and to the United States itself, occupied the unique lands that subsequently have been identified as the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands; and

6 Whereas the unique revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, commonly known as
7 O&C lands, once provided revenues vital to the economic survival of many county governments in
8 Oregon; and

9 Whereas failures in federal management of the O&C lands have resulted in a drastic decline in
10 revenues from those lands and left many of the 18 Oregon counties in which O&C lands are located
11 without adequate revenues to provide essential public services, including the protection of public
12 safety; and

13 Whereas federal management of the O&C lands has reduced timber harvests by 90 percent over
14 the last 20 years and deprived communities and industries of the raw material necessary to sustain
15 local economies and provide employment opportunities; and

16 Whereas federal management of the O&C lands has caused significant increases in the pro-
17 duction of greenhouse gases due to forest fires; and
18 Whereas ~~public and~~ ^{tribal governments, local governments, and} private resources within Oregon counties in which O&C lands are located
19 are capable of managing those lands in a responsible and balanced manner for the greatest public
20 benefit; and

21 Whereas the management of O&C lands by ~~public and~~ ^{tribal governments, local governments, and} private resources within Oregon counties
22 would produce greater benefit to the counties and to the long-term health of O&C lands than is re-
23 alized under current federal management; and

24 Whereas three members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation have proposed a bipartisan
25 plan for an Oregon trust operating under Oregon laws to manage nearly 60 percent of the O&C
26 lands in Oregon for sustained-yield timber production to benefit the Oregon counties in which O&C
27 lands are located and all Oregonians; and

28 Whereas Representatives DeFazio, Schrader and Walden have offered the O&C Trust, Conser-
29 vation and Jobs Plan, which would result in the restoration of sufficient county revenues to avert
30 the financial crisis currently confronting many Oregon counties and allow those counties to con-
31 tinue functioning with acceptable levels of public safety services and other essential services; and

1 Whereas the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan would ensure a sufficiently stable timber
2 supply to justify investments in new plants and equipment, would provide raw material to support
3 manufacturing and other jobs and would create up to 12,000 new jobs in parts of Oregon where ex-
4 traordinarily high unemployment rates are a chronic problem; and

5 Whereas, in addition to helping revive an ailing economy, the O&C Trust, Conservation and
6 Jobs Plan would ensure that timber and other resources are conserved for the benefit of current and
7 future generations by requiring sustained-yield forestry, permanently protecting all remaining old-
8 growth timber on more than one million acres of O&C lands, adding more than 90,000 acres to
9 wilderness protection and giving an additional 150 miles of streams wild and protected status; now,
10 therefore,

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

12 ~~That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, urge the President and the~~
13 ~~Congress of the United States of America to allow Oregon counties in which re-vested Oregon and~~
14 ~~California Railroad grant lands are located to exercise full management authority over those lands,~~
15 ~~by transferring title to the lands to the counties without cost, by long-term lease of the lands to the~~
16 ~~counties for a token amount or by enacting without delay the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs~~
17 ~~Plan proposed by Representatives DeFazio, Schrader and Walden;~~

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, urge the President and the Congress of the United States of America to allow Oregon counties in which re-vested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands are located, **or federally recognized tribal governments in whose ancestral territories the grant lands are located**, to exercise full management authority over those lands, by transferring title to the lands to the counties, **or into trust for the benefit of federally recognized tribes**, without cost, by long-term lease of the lands to the counties for a token amount or by enacting without delay the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan proposed by Representatives DeFazio, Schrader and Walden, **with appropriate amendments recognizing tribes' antecedent interests.**

and be it further

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

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Submitted by Pete Shepherd on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

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