

Proposed Amendment To

Senate Joint Memorial 6

Summary

Deletes references to the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of
2 Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:
3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly of the
4 State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as
5 follows:

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

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

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

18 Whereas federal management of the O&C lands has caused significant
19 increases in the production of greenhouse gases due to forest fires; and

20 Whereas public and private resources within Oregon counties in which
21 O&C lands are located are capable of managing those lands in a responsible
22 and balanced manner for the greatest public benefit; and

23 Whereas the management of O&C lands by public and private resources
24 within Oregon counties would produce greater benefit to the counties and to
25 the long-term health of O&C lands than is realized under current federal
26 management; **now, therefore, [and**

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

32 *[Whereas Representatives DeFazio, Schrader and Walden have offered*

33 *the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan, which would result in the*
34 *restoration of sufficient county revenues to avert the financial crisis*
35 *currently confronting many Oregon counties and allow these counties to*
36 *continue functioning with acceptable levels of public safety services and*
37 *other essential services; and*

38 *[Whereas the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan would ensure*
39 *a sufficiently stable timber supply to justify investments in new plants and*
40 *equipment, would provide raw material to support manufacturing and*
41 *other jobs and would create up to 12,000 new jobs in parts of Oregon*
42 *where extraordinarily high unemployment rates are a chronic problem; and*

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

50 Be it Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

51 That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly,
52 urge the President and the Congress of the United States of America to
53 allow Oregon counties in which revested Oregon and California Railroad
54 grant lands are located to exercise full management authority over those
55 lands by transferring title to the lands to the counties without cost, **or by**
56 long-term lease of the lands to the counties for a token amount; [*or by*
57 *enacting without delay the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Plan*
58 *proposed by Representatives DeFazio, Schrader, and Walden;*] and be it
59 further

60 Resolved, that a copy of this memorial be sent to the President of the
61 United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Note: Within the text itself, use of italics for text within brackets designates text to be deleted from the proposed SJM6. Use of bold type for text designates text proposed to be added to SJM6 as enrolled.