

March 12, 2013

Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

RE: Support SB 602 – Protect Waldo Lake and Complete the Job

Chair Dingfelder and Members of the Committee:

One Hundred Twenty-Four (124) years ago, the Oregon House approved House Joint Memorial No. 8 asking Congress that a portion of the Cascade Mountains be “set apart and kept free and open forever” and “held in trust for the people of the State Oregon and of the United States, to be used as a public reserve or park, and for no other purpose” (Journal of the House 1889, House Joint Memorial No. 8, Journal, pp. 118 – 120, 350). The primary sponsor for this Memorial was then Representative John Waldo.¹ The Memorial passed the House but failed in the Senate because of opposition from sheep grazing interests. Later, the Cascade Reserve was established by President Cleveland in 1893 which in large part included the lands proposed by Representative Waldo and large pristine lake now named for him.

Again in 1896, Waldo led an effort to keep the Oregon Congressional delegation from deleting a large area in the central Cascades from the Cascade Forest Reserve from Mount Hood to Crater Lake including the lands around Lake Waldo. Waldo urged President Cleveland to retain the area in the Reserve and to recognize the important values and resources of the mountains and wilderness “where communion with untrammelled nature and the free air, the narrowing tendencies of an artificial and petty existence might be perceived and corrected, and the spirit enlarged and strengthened.” We are lucky for men like Judge Waldo and for their foresight of our future needs. But Waldo could not have envisioned the current threat to the remote mountain lakes he so cherished from motors and seaplanes because there were no such machines or even airplanes at that time.

Now the Oregon Legislature has a unique opportunity to finish the job begun long ago by Representative Waldo with the passage of **SB 602 – a bill to ban the use of motors on Waldo Lake**. I urge your support for this bill and any amendments needed to ensure that no gas motors or seaplanes² will intrude upon the stillness of Waldo Lake and the

¹ Elected to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1880 and became the first native born Chief Justice from 1884 to 1886. He was elected to the Oregon Legislature in 1889.

² Regardless of whether it uses gasoline, diesel, natural gas or biodiesel fuel.

surrounding wilderness that has endured and been preserved in large part because of his tireless efforts.

I have had the personal opportunity to experience the wilds of the Cascades with their forests, lakes and streams. They are truly special places that we all should respect and as Waldo wanted to be "held in trust" "as a public reserve or park, and for no other purpose." In this hectic busy and noisy world we need more places for solitude and stillness not less. Upon his death, it was written that the mountains and forests were Waldo's temple and "there he worshipped." Please pass SB 602 and protect and retain the sacred lake Waldo so loved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Eber", with a large, stylized initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

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C: Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D.

With attachments