

Senate Joint Memorial 10

Sponsored by Senator BAERTSCHIGER JR; Senators BEYER, BOQUIST, CLOSE, COURTNEY, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, HANSELL, JOHNSON, KNOPP, KRUSE, OLSEN, ROBLAN, STARR, STEINER, HAYWARD, THOMSEN, WHITSETT, WINTERS, Representatives BENTZ, CAMERON, CONGER, ESQUIVEL, FREEMAN, GILLIAM, GOMBERG, HANNA, HICKS, HUFFMAN, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KOMP, KOTEK, KRIEGER, MCKEOWN, MCLANE, OLSON, PARRISH, RICHARDSON, SPRENGER, THOMPSON, WHISNANT, WHITSETT, WITT

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 Congress to transfer management of Oregon and California Railroad grant lands to newly established board of trustees consisting of representatives from local government, environmental organizations and timber industry.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress as-
3 sembled:

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

6 Whereas the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, which are managed predom-
7 inantly by the Bureau of Land Management, were once privately owned but were returned to federal
8 ownership in 1916 and now constitute approximately 2.7 million acres of federal lands that are in-
9 tended to be used for the public benefit; and

10 Whereas the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of 1937
11 (43 U.S.C. 1181f) set aside land to benefit the public through revenues from timber production and
12 community stabilization; and

13 Whereas Congress, through its decision to secure forestlands in federal rather than private
14 ownership, deprived 18 Oregon counties of the opportunity for economic development and of prop-
15 erty tax revenues for use in providing essential public services; and

16 Whereas forests on the grant lands are capable of producing 1.2 billion board feet per year, but
17 only a small fraction of that is being harvested; and

18 Whereas Oregon counties containing the grant lands have continued to see the sale of federal
19 timber, a primary source of their revenues, sharply curtailed, in turn decreasing the revenues
20 available for public schools, road maintenance, public safety and other public programs and services;
21 and

22 Whereas because of the loss of federal timber sales revenue, the counties have suffered a peril-
23 ous loss of jobs and infrastructure due to sawmill and peeler mill closures and the disappearance
24 of other forest-based industries, and have been forced to lay off law enforcement officers and
25 teachers, defer road maintenance and close county correctional facilities; now, therefore,

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

27 That Oregon counties with Oregon and California Railroad grant lands should be permitted to
28 derive sustainable sources of revenue from the revested grant lands; and be it further

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Resolved, That the Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to designate
2 the approximately 2.7 million acres of Oregon and California Railroad grant lands as O&C Trust
3 Lands, maintaining federal ownership but transferring management of the grant lands to a newly
4 established O&C Trust Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor;
5 and be it further

6 Resolved, That the Governor would appoint to the board three representatives from government
7 entities, three representatives from environmental organizations and three members from the timber
8 industry; and be it further

9 Resolved, That the board would manage approximately 1.1 million acres of the O&C Trust Lands
10 in a reserve for natural succession and recreation; and be it further

11 Resolved, That the board would manage approximately 1.6 million acres of the O&C Trust Lands
12 for sustainable forest commodity production at a quantity of not less than 500 million board feet per
13 year as established in the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act
14 of 1937; and be it further

15 Resolved, That the board would be authorized to negotiate land exchanges with neighboring
16 land owners in order to create contiguous blocks of land under the management of the board; and
17 be it further

18 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial with original signatures shall be sent to each member
19 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation and a copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member
20 of Congress.

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