

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 201**

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 6 through 22 and
2 insert:

3 “Whereas the unique revested Oregon and California Railroad grant
4 lands, commonly known as O&C lands, which are managed predominantly
5 by the Bureau of Land Management, were originally federal lands that were
6 transferred to private ownership but were returned to federal ownership in
7 1916; and

8 “Whereas the O&C lands now constitute more than 2.4 million acres of
9 federal lands intended to be used for sustained timber production, recreation,
10 protection of clean drinking water resources and critical fish and wildlife
11 habitat, and promotion of county stability; and

12 “Whereas the O&C lands once provided revenues vital to the economic
13 survival of many county governments in Oregon; and

14 “Whereas timber harvests have been reduced by 90 percent over the last
15 20 years, which, among other tax and economic factors, has resulted in a
16 drastic decline in revenues from those lands and left many of the 18 Oregon
17 counties in which O&C lands are located without adequate revenues to pro-
18 vide essential public services and employment opportunities; and

19 “Whereas because of the loss of federal timber sales revenue, the eco-
20 nomic recession and other factors, the counties have suffered a perilous loss
21 of jobs and infrastructure due to sawmill and peeling mill closures and the
22 disappearance of other forest-based industries and have been forced to lay

1 off law enforcement officers, close county correctional facilities and dra-
2 matically reduce other county services; and

3 “Whereas the O&C lands provide at least 1.8 million Oregonians with
4 clean drinking water, saving the State of Oregon millions of dollars; and

5 “Whereas the O&C lands harbor unique and diverse ecosystems, support
6 culturally significant fish and wildlife, sustain salmon habitat over 1,400
7 river miles, and provide numerous recreational opportunities, including
8 fishing, kayaking and hiking, to local communities and visitors alike; and

9 “Whereas the O&C lands currently provide more jobs and economic rev-
10 enue from recreation than from timber; and

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