

HB 2997

Relating state financial administration (western juniper)

HB 2997 authorizes \$250,000 of Lottery Funds to support the commercialization of western juniper. Funding in the bill will support cooperative efforts to promote both the harvesting of western juniper, and the manufacturing and marketing of products made from western juniper.

The commercialization of western juniper will provide economic and environmental benefits. Among these are: improving the economic incentives to thin juniper woodlands which will support rangeland restoration efforts, and providing valuable new materials for the wood products industry to expand and to increase employment opportunities.

Funding is provided on a one-time basis. The specific activities supported by the bill include: providing technical business assistance, promoting market development and supply chain coordination, and promoting liaison efforts with wildlife management programs. The Oregon Business Development Department will administer and distribute the funds through a request-for-proposals process.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 2997 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.