



April 10, 2017

Re: House Joint Memorial 11

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the consideration and adoption of House Joint Memorial 11 (HJM 11) relating to the statutorily unique O&C Lands in Western Oregon.

I am a 5th generation Oregonian that grew up in Springfield with a deep personal and professional passion for Oregon's incredible natural resources. After graduating from the University of Oregon and completing graduate school abroad, I moved to Washington, D.C. to work for Congressman Peter DeFazio as a policy advisor.

As a congressional staffer, I spent a majority of my time working on complex natural resources issues impacting the State of Oregon and Pacific Northwest. During my eight years in Washington D.C. – including two years working on the House Natural Resources Committee – the O&C Lands crisis was the most complex and controversial issue I worked on.

I was intimately involved in crafting a bipartisan legislative O&C solution in the U.S. House of Representatives that secured the support of Representatives DeFazio, Schrader, and Walden. I was also engaged in legislative solutions proposed in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, none of those legislative proposals passed both chambers of Congress.

After those failed attempts in Congress three years ago, the O&C Land crisis has only grown worse. Western Oregon communities have faced even more severe economic, environmental, and social consequences due to the lack of responsible, active forest management. The current resource management plans for the O&C Lands – finalized in 2016 – would further undermine revenues for basic county services like law enforcement and mental health, restrict the availability of renewable materials to local mills, and subject public lands in Western Oregon to serious environmental threats including catastrophic wildfires, climate change, and drought.

If there is any hope of passing a durable legislative O&C solution, it will require meaningful engagement and hard work at every level of government – local, county, state, and federal. HJM11 is an important step in that process by acknowledging the complex issues before the State and encouraging the Oregon Congressional Delegation and the President of the United States to work together to find a solution. As someone previously involved in the legislative process, I know decisive action by the Oregon Legislature can have an impact on our federally-elected officials. I urge quick consideration and adoption of this important memorial.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Travis Joseph', is written over a blue horizontal line.

Travis Joseph
President, American Forest Resource Council