



Date: April 13, 2017

To: House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

From: The Association of Oregon Counties

Subject: House Joint Memorial 11

Please add to the records of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee these comments related to House Joint Memorial 11, which is on the committee's agenda for public hearing on April 13, 2017.

### **AOC strongly supports House Joint Memorial 11**

The Association of Oregon Counties, which represents all 36 Oregon county governments, joins with the Association of O&C Counties to support the bipartisan proposed HJM 11, urging congressional action on meaningful reforms to management of Oregon's O&C forests.

Reforms that are long-term and reliable are critical to the social and economic well-being of communities that are dominated by these federal lands. Higher levels of harvest can be achieved, while still providing for recovery of endangered species, enhanced landscape resiliency, wildlife habitats, clean water, and recreation.

Catastrophic wildfires have graphically and expensively illustrated the need for fundamental reforms of federal land management generally. AOC strongly supports HJM 11 as an essential first step in the solution.