

Senate Joint Memorial 1

Sponsored by Senator RILEY (at the request of David Pearl) (Presession filed.)

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 pass legislation establishing International System of Units as official system of weights and measures of United States.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

Whereas there are very strong economic and scientific reasons for the United States to adopt the International System of Units, commonly known as the metric system; and

Whereas upon completion of Myanmar's intended conversion to the International System of Units, the United States and Liberia will be the only two countries worldwide that do not use the metric system; and

Whereas failure to adopt the International System of Units will continue to create bilateral trade impediments with other countries and could result in the United States losing its competitive edge in science and technology; and

Whereas this is particularly important as the dominance of United States companies is being challenged in the competitive atmosphere of globalization; and

Whereas adopting the International System of Units would likely result in the creation of many jobs and better prepare the current and future workforce of the United States to work in the international marketplace; and

Whereas industries that have voluntarily converted to the International System of Units have reported improvements in profits and efficiencies; and

Whereas the adoption of the International System of Units by the United States would aid in the prevention of costly incidents such as the 1999 loss of the Mars Orbiter, where the use of conflicting metric and United States customary units resulted in a loss exceeding \$125 million; and

Whereas the exclusive use of the International System of Units by the United States will save lives, as wherever the standardization of measurements to the International System of Units has already occurred within the healthcare system, patient health and safety has benefited from the reduction in error-prone unit conversions for medication dosages; and

Whereas the cost of not using the International System of Units is increasing with the trend toward globalization, and the expense of delaying metrication will continue to climb yearly; and

Whereas the cost of adopting the International System of Units would be quickly recovered through the economic benefits of global interoperability; and

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 Whereas the current policy of voluntary transition has stagnated national progress toward full
2 adoption of the International System of Units; and

3 Whereas the complete transition to the International System of Units would best be established
4 by federal legislation, rather than through the work of individual states and industries, to prevent
5 a patchwork of standards across the nation; now, therefore,

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

7 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
8 of the United States to pass legislation establishing the International System of Units as the official
9 system of weights and measures of the United States for all purposes nationwide; and be it further

10 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
11 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member
12 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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