On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 6 through 31.
On page 2, delete lines 1 through 9 and insert:

“Whereas national forests, revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands (O&C lands) and other lands owned by the United States make up nearly 53 percent of the land base in the State of Oregon, yet those federal lands pay no property taxes to support local government services or schools; and

“Whereas national forests and O&C lands were made subject to federal legislation in 1908, 1911 and 1937 that required the federal government to share proceeds from timber sales to help support counties and schools, and for many decades shared federal timber receipts were a substantial contributor to the economic well-being of communities, local governments and schools; and

“Whereas environmental concerns and changing national priorities in the 1990s resulted in drastic reductions in timber harvests from national forests and O&C lands, with correspondingly drastic reductions in payments to counties and schools in Oregon and more than 40 other states, creating severe funding shortages for many counties and schools; and

“Whereas United States Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon coauthored and was an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS), which honored the federal government’s historic commitment to rural communities where the federal government holds land, establishing a payment formula for counties and schools that had previously received revenue-sharing payments from national forests and O&C lands; and

“Whereas SRS has brought more than $3.1 billion to Oregon counties and schools-to keep teachers in classrooms, sheriffs on the job and roads in good repair—but the annual payments under SRS have declined in recent years, and the law has expired and been extended several times; and

“Whereas each reauthorization of SRS has been increasingly difficult due to the political environment in Congress, resulting in great uncertainty and instability in the budgeting processes of counties and schools; and

“Whereas SRS is currently expired, and no payment will be made for fiscal year 2019 or thereafter unless there is a reauthorization, again creating uncertainty and chaos in the budgeting processes of dependent local governments; and

“Whereas Senator Wyden has recognized the need for a long-term solution that provides certainty and stability in payments to counties and schools and makes a dependable contribution to the support of local communities; and

“Whereas Senator Wyden coauthored and was an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Forest Management for Rural Stability Act (FMRSA), which was introduced in the Senate in 2018 and which Senator Wyden has stated he will reintroduce in 2019 and seek action on by Congress; and

“Whereas FMRSA would greatly benefit counties and schools in more than 40 states, none more
so than Oregon, providing guaranteed annual payments that are no less than the SRS payments for
2017, which totaled more than $96 million in Oregon, and the minimum would be adjusted upward
each year in the future by the rate of inflation; and

“Whereas FMRSA would employ a bold and creative mechanism to ensure permanent payments
to counties and schools by initially funding an endowment that would be invested and managed for
the benefit of counties and schools and into which any shared timber receipts also would be depos-
ited over time, from which annual payments would be made to counties and schools based on
endowment fund deposits and earnings; and

“Whereas FMRSA is supported by the Association of Oregon Counties, the Association of O&C
Counties, the National Association of Counties, the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition
and many other entities, each of which recognizes the need for a modern and permanent version of
SRS that would create certainty and predictability and would satisfy that need without severing the
links between communities and their nearby federal forest lands; now, therefore,”.

Delete lines 11 through 14 and insert:

“That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
of the United States to pass, and the President to sign, the Forest Management for Rural Stability
Act before the close of federal fiscal year 2019; and be it further”.

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