Senate Joint Memorial 1

Sponsored by Senator BAERTSCHIGER JR (Preession 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 transfer management of Oregon and California Railroad grant lands to newly established board of trustees consisting of representatives from local government, environmental organizations and timber industry.

JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

Whereas the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, which are managed predominantly by the Bureau of Land Management, were once privately owned but were returned to federal ownership in 1916 and now constitute approximately 2.7 million acres of federal lands that are intended to be used for the public benefit; and

Whereas the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181f) set aside land to benefit the public through revenues from timber production and community stabilization; and

Whereas Congress, through its decision to secure forestlands in federal rather than private ownership, deprived 18 Oregon counties of the opportunity for economic development and of property tax revenues for use in providing essential public services; and

Whereas forests on the grant lands are capable of producing 1.2 billion board feet per year, but only a small fraction of that is being harvested; and

Whereas Oregon counties containing the grant lands have continued to see the sale of federal timber, a primary source of their revenues, sharply curtailed, in turn decreasing the revenues available for public schools, road maintenance, public safety and other public programs and services; and

Whereas because of the loss of federal timber sales revenue, the counties have suffered a perilous loss of jobs and infrastructure due to sawmill and peeler mill closures and the disappearance of other forest-based industries, and have been forced to lay off law enforcement officers and teachers, defer road maintenance and close county correctional facilities; now, therefore,

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

That Oregon counties with Oregon and California Railroad grant lands should be permitted to derive sustainable sources of revenue from the revested grant lands; and be it further

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States of America is respectfully urged to designate the approximately 2.7 million acres of Oregon and California Railroad grant lands as O&C Trust Lands, maintaining federal ownership but transferring management of the grant lands to a newly

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.

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established O&C Trust Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor; 
and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor would appoint to the board three representatives from government 
entities, three representatives from environmental organizations and three members from the timber 
industry; and be it further

Resolved, That the board would manage approximately 1.1 million acres of the O&C Trust Lands 
in a reserve for natural succession and recreation; and be it further

Resolved, That the board would manage approximately 1.6 million acres of the O&C Trust Lands 
for sustainable forest commodity production at a quantity of not less than 500 million board feet per 
year as established in the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act 
of 1937; and be it further

Resolved, That the board would be authorized to negotiate land exchanges with neighboring 
landowners in order to create contiguous blocks of land under the management of the board; and 
be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Senate Majority Leader, to the 
Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delega-
tion.