

HJM 1-1
(LC 1062)
2/18/19 (DJ/cfc/ps)

Requested by Representative SMITH DB

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 1**

1 On page 1 of the printed joint memorial, delete lines 6 through 31.

2 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 9 and insert:

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

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

14 “Whereas environmental concerns and changing national priorities in the
15 1990s resulted in drastic reductions in timber harvests from national forests
16 and O&C lands, with correspondingly drastic reductions in payments to
17 counties and schools in Oregon and more than 40 other states, creating se-
18 vere funding shortages for many counties and schools; and

19 “Whereas United States Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon coauthored and
20 was an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Secure Rural Schools and Com-
21 munity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS), which honored the federal

1 government’s historic commitment to rural communities where the federal
2 government holds land, establishing a payment formula for counties and
3 schools that had previously received revenue-sharing payments from national
4 forests and O&C lands; and

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

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

12 “Whereas SRS is currently expired, and no payment will be made for fis-
13 cal year 2019 or thereafter unless there is a reauthorization, again creating
14 uncertainty and chaos in the budgeting processes of dependent local gov-
15 ernments; and

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

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

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

28 “Whereas FMRSA would employ a bold and creative mechanism to ensure
29 permanent payments to counties and schools by initially funding an
30 endowment that would be invested and managed for the benefit of counties

1 and schools and into which any shared timber receipts also would be depos-
2 ited over time, from which annual payments would be made to counties and
3 schools based on endowment fund deposits and earnings; and

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

11 Delete lines 11 through 14 and insert:

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

16
