House Joint Memorial 8

Sponsored by Representative SMITH DB

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 enact legislation addressing shortage of seedlings needed for reforestation efforts.

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 Eighty-first Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas each year, the western United States faces devastating wildfires that threaten communities, livelihoods and the resiliency of our forests; and

Whereas wildfires in the United States have destroyed more than 68 million acres in the last decade and more than 10 million acres in 2020 alone; and

Whereas prompt replanting and recovery from these disasters is critical to prevent ongoing harm; and

Whereas a secure source of seedlings available for replanting will allow us to more quickly restore our forests, prevent mudslides and preserve habitat for critical species; and

Whereas it is imperative that we pair scientific forest management with aggressive reforestation efforts, but there is currently a severe national shortage of seedlings; and

Whereas to support reforestation efforts and promote healthy forests, we must drastically increase the supply of seedlings across the nation, involving both public and private nurseries; and

Whereas a healthy supply of seedlings is also essential in addressing climate change, infrastructure, affordable housing, rural economic development and other pressing needs; and

Whereas House Resolution 2562, the Solving Our Shortages for Seedlings Act (SOS for Seedlings Act), addresses the national shortage of seedlings needed for reforestation efforts; and

Whereas the SOS for Seedlings Act directs the U.S. Forest Service to develop a national seedling strategy that assesses regional reforestation opportunities and the nursery capacity needed to meet those opportunities; and

Whereas the SOS for Seedlings Act provides funding for federal nurseries, which are the main supplier of seedlings for reforestation on federal lands; and

Whereas the SOS for Seedlings Act creates a new $1 billion loan program to address nursery infrastructure and build new state, tribal, local and private nurseries; and

Whereas the SOS for Seedlings Act will support wildfire recovery efforts, benefit the environment and restore forests in the State of Oregon and throughout the United States; now, therefore,

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

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.

LC 3779
That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize the urgent need to address the severe shortage of seedlings needed for reforestation efforts in the State of Oregon and throughout the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That we respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President to sign, House Resolution 2562, the Solving Our Shortages for Seedlings Act; and be it further

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