

# 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.

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

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

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

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