

# Senate Joint Memorial 5

Sponsored by Senator SOLLMAN; Senator PATTERSON

## 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 establish national biodiversity strategy.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-  
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas Oregonians have an important relationship with nature and have called on their local,  
7 state and federal governments to preserve and protect nature both within the State of Oregon and  
8 across the United States; and

9 Whereas Oregon is the home of species and habitats that are of ecological, spiritual, cultural,  
10 historic, recreational and scientific value to Oregonians and need to be protected both now and for  
11 future generations; and

12 Whereas Oregon and the United States are facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, largely  
13 driven by human activity; and

14 Whereas addressing the biodiversity crisis requires coordinated action across national and state  
15 boundaries; and

16 Whereas human activity is significantly damaging Earth's ecosystems by altering 75 percent of  
17 the area of terrestrial environments and 66 percent of marine environments, directly exploiting  
18 wildlife and plant species, accelerating climate change, introducing invasive species and polluting  
19 air, land and water; and

20 Whereas human activity is threatening approximately one million species with extinction in the  
21 coming decades, including approximately 40 percent of amphibians, 33 percent of corals, sharks,  
22 shark relatives and marine mammals, 60 percent of cycads, 30 percent of conifer trees and 10 per-  
23 cent of insect species; and

24 Whereas human activity is causing population sizes of wild species to decline by an average of  
25 68 percent for mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles, including the loss of nearly 3 billion  
26 birds in North America since 1970; and

27 Whereas human activity is accelerating the decline of important economic and cultural services,  
28 with the productivity of approximately one-fourth of Earth's land surface reduced, one-third of  
29 Earth's land surface and 75 percent of freshwater resources devoted to crop or livestock production,  
30 half a trillion dollars of global crops at risk from pollinator loss and 25 percent of greenhouse gas  
31 emissions caused by land clearing, crops and fertilization; and

32 Whereas coordination on a global, national, regional and local scale is necessary to address the

**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 biodiversity crisis; and

2 Whereas the decline of biodiversity disproportionately impacts indigenous and other communi-  
3 ties that rely on nature for essential services, including Native Americans and Alaska Natives who  
4 offer unique perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity;  
5 and

6 Whereas the United States possesses an abundance and great diversity of species of fish, wildlife  
7 and plants that are of significant value to the United States for intrinsic, aesthetic, ecological, ed-  
8 ucational, cultural, recreational, economic and scientific reasons; and

9 Whereas the decline of biodiversity presents a direct threat to the security, health and well-  
10 being of the people of the United States by causing economic harm through the loss of valuable  
11 ecosystem services such as zoonotic disease buffering, pollination, water filtration, soil replenish-  
12 ment, provision of game species, medicinal products and recreational opportunities; and

13 Whereas communities of color, low-income communities, tribal communities and other popu-  
14 lations that have been systematically and deliberately targeted for siting environmentally degrading  
15 activities and excluded from conservation efforts face disproportionate impacts from biodiversity  
16 loss; and

17 Whereas there is no coordinated policy to maximize the effectiveness of the federal government's  
18 conservation efforts and collaboration with state and local governments, tribes, private landowners  
19 and other nongovernmental stakeholders; and

20 Whereas the United States should play a leading role on the international stage in addressing  
21 the biodiversity crisis, yet the United States is not a party to the Convention on Biological Diver-  
22 sity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and other relevant  
23 international agreements; and

24 Whereas unlike many other countries, the United States does not issue a national biodiversity  
25 outlook and does not have a national biodiversity strategy as part of the Intergovernmental  
26 Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; now, therefore,

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

28 That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress  
29 of the United States to establish a national biodiversity strategy to:

30 (1) Ensure the conservation and restoration of the nation's biodiversity;

31 (2) Secure and restore the ecosystem services provided by nature for current and future gener-  
32 ations;

33 (3) Deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

34 (4) Set ambitious yet necessary goals for protecting biodiversity in the coming decades;

35 (5) Promote social equity and justice in the conservation of the nation's biodiversity;

36 (6) Coordinate the actions of federal agencies to advance the conservation of biodiversity;

37 (7) Promote collaboration among federal, state and tribal governments, nongovernmental  
38 stakeholders, civil society and international entities to advance conservation;

39 (8) Honor federal trust obligations to tribal nations and Native Americans; and

40 (9) Provide global leadership in addressing the biodiversity crisis; and be it further

41 Resolved, That we urge that the national biodiversity strategy be developed with significant  
42 public input and in collaboration and coordination with federal and state agencies, including those  
43 in Oregon, tribes, communities of color, low-income communities, private landowners and other  
44 nongovernmental stakeholders; and be it further

45 Resolved, That we urge that the national biodiversity strategy include direction on:

1 (1) Supporting the national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of lands and waters in the  
2 United States to protect biodiversity by 2030;

3 (2) Setting other goals necessary to reduce threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best  
4 available scientific information;

5 (3) Taking action to protect threatened, endangered and at-risk species from further imperilment  
6 or extinction;

7 (4) Reviewing existing laws, plans, programs and strategies that are relevant to addressing  
8 threats to biodiversity to assess how they can contribute to the objectives of this memorial and re-  
9 commending new laws, plans, programs and strategies; and

10 (5) Funding existing conservation programs and developing new funding sources; and be it fur-  
11 ther

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

15 \_\_\_\_\_