March 31, 2015

Honorable Chair Brian Clem, Co-Vice Chairs Ken Helm and Bill Post, Committee Members Rep Vic Gillam, Rep David Gomberg, Rep Bradd Witt and House Republican Leader Mike McLane

Re SUPPORT FOR HB3444 and HJM 13

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I am here to add my voice to support HB3444 and HJM 13 which calls upon Congress to complete their duty to the transfer of public lands to the state of Oregon as promised in our enabling acts.

The American Lands Council offers some valuable resources to help understand the history and our rights as states. I am sure you are aware of them, but just to put them in the record, here is a helpful video to outline why Oregon should demand their public lands be returned to us.

This presentation was put together for Oregon and is on the American Lands Council website. It has the history, current problems and a solutions for implementation to return Oregon lands back to the state.
http://www.americanlandscouncil.org/oregon_transfer_of_public_lands_presentation

Why should we be subject to diminishing PILT payments, when we have land that can bring enough tax revenue to fund our programs and enough natural resources to bring prosperity to our state. The eastern states do not have more rights than we do in the west. They have received theirs public lands. Now it is time to demand that the federal government give us what was already promised to us, what the Supreme Court has ruled as recently as the last decade that Congress must do, as in the Hawaiian statehood ruling. It is the solemn duty of Congress to return our public lands to us.

These state resources offer hope for our rural counties, our youth, an exciting future for all of us! Contrast that to 911 calls going unanswered, failed school budgets, many citizens left in poverty, smoke filled communities near out of controlled forest fires. Animal and water sheds destroyed.

Thank you for taking the time to review these resources and hearing my support for HB3444 and HJM13

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