

A-Engrossed
House Joint Memorial 3

Ordered by the House April 10
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, LEWIS, OWENS; Representative CATE (Pre-session filed.)

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.

Urges Congress to **introduce and** pass and President to sign **legislation based on** Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020.

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-first Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legisla-
5 tive session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas 2020 was a year of unprecedented wildfires throughout the western United States, in-
7 cluding in Oregon; and

8 Whereas the 2020 Oregon wildfire season was the most destructive season on record; and

9 Whereas Oregon wildfires killed at least 11 people, burned more than 1 million acres and de-
10 stroyed thousands of homes; and

11 Whereas the pattern and magnitude of wildfire-induced destruction in Oregon was repeated in
12 California and throughout the western United States, where a total of more than 6 million acres
13 have burned; and

14 Whereas backlogs in adequate forest management coupled with drier, hotter conditions, have
15 resulted in unhealthy, overly dense forests; and

16 Whereas when fires inevitably occur, current forest conditions result in larger, more cat-
17 astrophic fires that are difficult to control, destructive to both urban and rural communities and
18 pose great threats to both private property and human life; and

19 Whereas the bipartisan Emergency Wildlife and Public Safety Act of 2020 (S.4431) was intro-
20 duced in the United States Senate to begin to address the catastrophic wildfire conditions that
21 persist in Oregon and other western states; and

22 Whereas the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 was the result of over one year
23 of extensive deliberation, stakeholder engagement and outreach across party lines to ensure a bi-
24 partisan, pragmatic approach to reduce the risk of wildfire; and

25 Whereas enactment of federal legislation based on the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety
26 Act of 2020 will provide federal agencies with new tools to reduce hazardous fuels, protect commu-
27 nities, support forestry jobs, biomass development and smarter energy practices; now, therefore,

28 **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, urge the Congress of the United
2 States to introduce and pass, and the President of the United States to sign, legislation based on the
3 Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020; and be it further

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

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