

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 3

Sponsored by Representative SMITH DB; Representatives EVANS, LEVY, MOORE-GREEN, MORGAN, Senator KENNEMER (Pre-session filed.)

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 2020 was a year of unprecedented wildfires throughout the western United States, including in Oregon; and

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

Whereas Oregon wildfires killed at least 11 people, burned more than 1 million acres and destroyed thousands of homes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President to sign, legislation promoting cooperative fuel load measurement and management on federal and state lands, and appropriate legislation that is based on the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020, excluding any provision that exempts forest management activities from environmental or administrative review, that could foreseeably compromise the ecological health of Oregon forests or that facilitates the exportation outside of the United States of unprocessed timber harvested from public lands; 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.

Adopted by House April 19, 2021

Readopted by House June 26, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 26, 2021

Peter Courtney, President of Senate