

# House Joint Memorial 3

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, LEWIS, OWENS (Presession 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 **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass and President to sign Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020.

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

Whereas the 2020 Oregon wildfire season has been 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) has been 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 is 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 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, urge the Congress of the United States to pass and the President of the United States to sign the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to

**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 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member  
2 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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