

House Joint Memorial 11

Sponsored by Representatives OWENS, BREESE-IVERSON

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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Asks the federal government to make changes in laws to prevent wildfires. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7).

Urges Congress and federal agencies to adopt land management reforms that will improve the prevention and mitigation of wildfires on federal lands.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas catastrophic wildfires threaten life and property directly, placing communities and homes at risk of destruction, destroying wildlife habitat, impacting water quality and emitting large quantities of greenhouse gases; and

Whereas the 2020s have seen an unprecedented number of wildfires throughout Oregon and the greater western United States; and

Whereas Oregon wildfires have grown more rapidly in this decade than throughout this state's entire history; and

Whereas severe drought, prolonged heat waves and overly dense forests have resulted in more catastrophic fires that have been more difficult to manage than ever before, leading to previously unheard-of destruction and loss of human life; and

Whereas of the estimated 538 million acres of federal forest land, the United States Forest Service reports that 63 million acres of land under its control are prone to catastrophic wildfire due to chronically overgrown or dead timber fuel loads, while the United States Department of the Interior has estimated that there are 54 million high-risk acres on the land for which it is responsible; and

Whereas decades-old laws like the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act have created unnecessary red tape in managing federal lands to reduce wildfire risks; and

Whereas meaningful federal reforms will lift barriers to increase the pace, scope and scale of proactive forest management practices like prescribed burns to reduce economically and environmentally devastating wildfires; and

Whereas land management reforms for the prevention and mitigation of wildfires will save countless lives, property and natural resources in Oregon and throughout the western United States; now, therefore,

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

2 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the President
3 of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Secretary of
4 Agriculture and the Congress of the United States to work to remove legislative and regulatory
5 barriers to active forest management and to adopt meaningful reforms that will improve prevention
6 and mitigation of wildfires on federal lands; and be it further

7 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, the
8 United States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the Senate Ma-
9 jority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Oregon Con-
10 gressional Delegation.

11
