
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Owen, Snyder, Bauer, Deccio, Morton, A. Anderson and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/25/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED
5 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The summer of 1994 brought devastating lightning-caused
10 wildfires to our state as well as to Oregon and western Canada,
11 including a 135,000 acre fire that was this state's largest since 1929;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Those fires burned over 280,000 acres of private, state,
14 and federal forest, grass, and range land; and

15 WHEREAS, The burned area contains over 700 million board feet of
16 timber that will lose commercial value within two years; and

17 WHEREAS, Prompt salvage logging of fire-damaged and killed trees
18 will permit redemption of some of their commercial value; and

19 WHEREAS, Removal of damaged and dead trees will also reduce the
20 risk of reburns, such as the three fires that occurred over an 18-year
21 period and were sparked by one original fire, the Oregon Tillamook

1 fire, as well as reduce future fire risk by reducing fuel for fires;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Removal of such trees will also help control insects and
4 disease, recycle nutrients into soils, and improve wildlife habitat,
5 stream flows, and grazing areas, thereby creating a more resilient
6 landscape of plants and animals; and

7 WHEREAS, Burned areas should be promptly reseeded to protect
8 against flood, mud, and erosion damage; and

9 WHEREAS, Trail erosion control structures should be built to
10 further ensure protection against flood, mud, and erosion damage;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
12 States Department of Agriculture participate in efforts to ensure the
13 long-term health of our natural resources and request that the United
14 States Department of Agriculture:

15 (1) Conduct salvage logging on all forest lands burned by wildfires
16 in 1994 or before;

17 (2) Take steps to control diseases and insects preying upon damaged
18 and dead trees in burned areas; and

19 (3) Reseed and replant seedlings in burned areas in order to
20 prevent further damage to those areas.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
23 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
24 the United States Forest Service, the President of the United States
25 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
26 Congress from the state of Washington.

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