
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4033

State of Washington

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By Representatives Hargrove, Basich, Riley, Beck, Sheldon, Jones, Bowman, Morton, Morris, Brumsickle, P. Johnson, Dorn, Rasmussen, J. Kohl, Kremen, Fuhrman, Wynne, Ogden, O'Brien, H. Myers and Paris

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1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH, 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:

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

8 WHEREAS, For fifty years, labor unions have advocated forestry
9 methods that incorporate environmental values in the form of sustained-
10 use and multiple-use forestry and setting aside timber land in
11 wilderness areas and parks, so that forests can be vital elements in
12 the everyday lives of communities; and

13 WHEREAS, In the Pacific Northwest, timber is a primary industry,
14 and hundreds of communities are timber-dependent; and

1 WHEREAS, In the Pacific Northwest, workers directly employed by
2 timber companies are woodworkers and truckers, workers in sawmills and
3 plywood mills; and

4 WHEREAS, In the Pacific Northwest, the timber industry supports
5 secondary employment in the service and public sectors, employees whose
6 jobs depend on timber sales; and

7 WHEREAS, Workers in other parts of the country depend on the raw
8 materials from the Pacific Northwest; workers in furniture, paper, and
9 building materials manufacturing, as well as the building trades; and

10 WHEREAS, Pacific Northwest timber makes up more than thirty percent
11 of all the timber used in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Job losses would erode the tax bases of hundreds of
13 Pacific Northwest communities, jeopardizing public and service sector
14 employment and the delivery of vital social services; and

15 WHEREAS, The issue of timber harvesting and protection of species
16 habitat is much broader than the spotted owl and the Pacific Northwest;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The timber industry is a fifty-seven billion dollar
19 industry, employing six hundred twenty-seven thousand workers in every
20 region of the United States and providing seventy percent of the United
21 States' building construction materials; and

22 WHEREAS, A failure to find a solution to the issues of the spotted
23 owl and old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest leaves larger
24 issues unaddressed and the door open for continued controversy and
25 economic disruption in nearly every part of the country; and

26 WHEREAS, Halting timber harvest in order to protect the owl, the
27 federal government may lose two hundred twenty-nine million dollars a
28 year in timber sales receipts; and

1 WHEREAS, The issue is not whether species like the spotted owl
2 deserve protection but rather to find solutions that protect species
3 and protect jobs and communities; and

4 WHEREAS, A long-term solution requires a balance between
5 environmental needs and the economic well-being of working families and
6 communities across the country; and

7 WHEREAS, Labor unions representing Northwest timber workers have
8 joined with the timber industry to offer a balanced, comprehensive, and
9 fair approach to the forest management crisis in the Northwest, under
10 the title Forests and Families Protection Act, H.R. 2463; and

11 WHEREAS, The Forest and Families Protection Act is the only
12 proposal that deals with all of the components of the present problem:
13 (1) Old-growth reserves; (2) spotted owl protection; (3) timber program
14 stability; and (4) worker assistance and economic adjustment measures;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
16 and the President of the United States enact the Forests and Families
17 Protection Act, H.R. 2463.

18 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
19 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
20 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
22 Washington.