
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Hargrove, Oke, Winsley and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/19/95. 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 SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES
6 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:

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

10 WHEREAS, 1994 was the latest in a series of catastrophic forest
11 fire seasons in the West, and 2.9 million acres were burned, including
12 a total of 285,700 acres in Washington state, and the lives of 25
13 courageous fire fighters were lost; and

14 WHEREAS, The severity of these fires are the result of prolonged
15 drought and deteriorating forest health conditions, and these
16 conditions still exist over very large areas threatening lives,
17 property, and the jobs of residents of timber-dependent communities;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, Soil erosion, mudslides, wildlife and fish habitat loss,
2 and other damages will leave an unforgotten legacy for years to come;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Enormous wildfires awaiting ignition on public lands of
5 the West can no longer be seen as uncontrollable acts of nature; and

6 WHEREAS, The costs and risks of inaction are greater than the costs
7 of remedial actions; and

8 WHEREAS, Millions of acres of dead and dying trees have been left
9 in the wake of the 1994 fire season, and leaving these areas untreated
10 will only exacerbate the spread of insect infestations and disease and
11 increase the risk of future catastrophic fires; and

12 WHEREAS, Billions of dollars of timber is burned and will have no
13 value if not salvaged quickly, compounding the cost and difficulty of
14 providing long-term solutions; and

15 WHEREAS, The prompt salvage of dead and dying trees will help
16 mitigate these dangerous conditions, improve future forest health, and
17 provide economic resources to affected communities;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
19 President of the United States declare a state of forest health
20 emergency in Eastern Washington and other affected areas; and that the
21 Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior expedite salvage sales of
22 dead and dying trees to mitigate dangerous conditions and improve
23 future forest health in these affected areas.

24 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
25 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
26 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
27 the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the
28 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
29 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the state of
30 Washington.

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