
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4006

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, Newhouse, B. Sullivan, Orcutt, Eickmeyer, Hinkle, Kessler and Kretz

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND 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, The vast timber resources of the Pacific Northwest have,
9 since the time of its inception, been an immensely important and
10 integral part of Washington's economic well-being; and

11 WHEREAS, Even today, in a time of modern developments and economic
12 diversification, many communities, both rural and urban, rely on a
13 steady and predictable supply of timber for economic vibrancy; and

14 WHEREAS, Many wood processing facilities have been forced to close
15 their doors due to inadequate timber supply; and

16 WHEREAS, Each closed mill represents a loss of economic opportunity
17 for a community; and

18 WHEREAS, A reduction in wood availability and the closure of timber
19 mills has lead to a crisis in the supply of chip for pulp mills; and

1 WHEREAS, A reliable timber supply is the number one asset an
2 investor will consider prior to constructing a new timber mill; and

3 WHEREAS, Countless acres of private forestland is being lost each
4 year to satisfy the growing population of the Pacific Northwest with
5 land for housing and other nonforestry uses; and

6 WHEREAS, The state of Washington has progressively lead the nation
7 in its pursuit of forest practices regulation to ensure that the
8 aquatic species that rely on healthy forests continue to thrive into
9 the future; and

10 WHEREAS, Unhealthy forests that have gone far too long without
11 having silvicultural thinning operations performed has lead to
12 devastating forest fires that cost the state government, federal
13 government, and local communities millions of dollars and release
14 massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere; and

15 WHEREAS, The forestland of the Pacific Northwest contains the raw
16 materials to jumpstart new industries in biofuels that can help
17 Washington lead the way on technological advancements to help reduce
18 greenhouse gas emissions and the nation's reliance on foreign oil; and

19 WHEREAS, Healthy, well-managed forests improve the habitat for all
20 species that rely on the forests for their homes; and

21 WHEREAS, The vast landholding of the United States forest service
22 and other federal agencies represent the promise of economic security
23 for Washington's communities, an opportunity to improve forest health
24 and reduce the economic and environmental costs of forest fires, hope
25 for the enhancement of important wildlife habitat, and the necessary
26 raw materials to begin production of biofuels;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
28 States forest service and the federal government consider ways to
29 increase the amount of timber and fiber that is removed from the
30 federal forestlands located within the borders of the state of
31 Washington.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
34 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
35 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of
36 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of the

1 Interior.

--- END ---