

Senate Joint Memorial 5

Sponsored by Senator ATKINSON

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**.

Urges Congress to update Endangered Species Act.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

Whereas the federal Endangered Species Act does not reflect the many lessons in protection and recovery of endangered species learned during the 30 years since it was enacted; and

Whereas the Endangered Species Act needs to be modernized to eliminate or reduce such problems as the overuse of litigation as an enforcement mechanism, ill-defined standards for the science used in decision-making and a poor recovery record for endangered species; and

Whereas only a few of approximately 1,300 species designated as endangered have recovered since the Endangered Species Act was enacted; and

Whereas private property owners concerned about the Endangered Species Act's restrictions on the use of land that contains habitat for endangered species have destroyed that habitat to discourage the entry of endangered species; and

Whereas the current emphasis on critical habitat designations in the Endangered Species Act has been criticized as ineffective in promoting species recovery while at the same time draining the resources of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through litigation based on critical habitat designations; and

Whereas the scientific standard for regulatory decision-making does not require peer review of scientific data and findings; and

Whereas there is a widely recognized need for state and local involvement in decision-making processes concerning endangered species; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the Congress of the United States update the Endangered Species Act to focus on species recovery, to de-emphasize critical habitat designations and to give states and private landowners a more active role to play in the recovery process; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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.