

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Hearing Room
Tapes - 16

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REP. BILL FISHER, Chair
REP. TONY CORCORAN, Vice-Chair
REP. LARRY WELLS
REP. TIM JOSI

MEMBER EXCUSED:

REP. JIM WELSH

STAFF PRESENT:

PAT ZWICK, Committee Administrator
GAIL E. BOESCH, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD:

SCR 2 - Public Hearing and Work Session
HB 2568 - Public Hearing and Work Session
HB 2601 - Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE , A

004 CHAIR FISHER: Calls the meeting to order at 1:37 PM.

Opens the Public Hearing on SCR 2

Witnesses: Senator Rod Johnson

Ted Ferrioli, Malheur Timber Operators

Paul Ehinger

Ross Mickey, National Firefighters Association

KC Cowan, Wheelabrators Environmental Systems

010 STAFF: Presents overview of SCR 2 which is a request to Congress to immediately adopt legislation requiring that dead and dying timber on federal lands in Oregon be sold, awarded and available for harvest.

030 SEN. ROD JOHNSON: Testifies in support of SCR 2, calls attention to resolutions on page 2 of SCR 2-A.

073 -Provides Senate vote statistics. Continues with discussion of SCR 2.

113 - Resolution is on track with events in Congress.

120 - Dead and dying trees problem most acute in Eastern Oregon; witnesses

that testified at Senate Natural Resources were not required to come and testify in this committee; Senator Johnson speaks for them. Will submit testimony from that meeting to Staff.

170 - Discusses dead timber and fires, in response to Chair Fisher's comment about a conference on forest fires.

200 REP. CORCORAN: Questions perception of impact on environmental lawsuits, referring to release of harvest timber for previously offered, sold and/or awarded timber sales.

230 TED FERRIOLI, MALHEUR TIMBER OPERATORS: Testifies in support of SCR 2. Submits Exhibit H.

290 CHAIR FISHER: Questions the scope of his area (Malheur).

301 PAUL EHINGER: Submits Exhibit A and discusses it, highlighting mill closures; media is "numb", don't want to hear about it (mill closures & job loss). "Silent attrition".

370 - Continues his testimony, citing information from Exhibit A.

426 - Notes effect of inflation, clarifies testimony.

457 CHAIR FISHER: In other words, the consumer has "swallowed" the expense.

465 EHINGER: Agrees, continues with presentation of Exhibit A.

535/022 Continues with presentation of Exhibit A.

TAPE 16, A

058 EHINGER: Testifies that the available jobs have gone down not because of automation, but because of volume of wood available.

083 - Provides statistics demonstrating the problems with the current timber economy; we get more out of every log.

102 CHAIR FISHER: Provides comments.

145 EHINGER: Lists mills that have recently closed, or downsized.

195 REP. CORCORAN: Requests estimate of imported logs.

203 EHINGER: Somewhere between 300 - 500 million board feet; can't verify.

212 REP. CORCORAN: Questions how much timber we are exporting.

225 ROSS MICKEY, NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION: Testifies in support of SCR 2. Discusses wildfires, forest health and ecosystem management.

278 - Acres burned, "didn't go in and thin out the herds", i.e. trees, so forests are grossly overpopulated, stressed, insects are killing them off.

Forests need management.

305 - Situation ripe for major wildfire, "massive destruction". Creating an

ecosystem in the NW that we've never seen before; not a balanced system. Either nature will restore the balance (via insects, disease or wildfire), or we will (by good forest management).

335 - Calls for sensible management.

355 CHAIR FISHER: Wonders if situation will invite arson.

360 EHINGER: States that arson is a "ridiculous assumption".

370 MICKEY: Responds to Chair's question. Only makes sense if you're talking about a monolithic huge industry. Too much risk for an individual for no return.

404 EHINGER: Offers a different perspective about arson. No one can know what's in the mind of an arsonist; bigger threat is lightening strikes.

TAPE 15, B

005 EHINGER: Continues sharing about lightening strikes and catastrophic forest fires.

038 K.C. COWAN, WHEELABRATORS ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS: Supports SCR 2, represents wood fueled plants.

082 - Explains test project in Eastern Oregon, and the reason Wheelabrators supports SCR 2.

093 CHAIR FISHER: Questions what kind of forests worked in. (Fir or Pine).

095 COWAN: Clarifies, and elaborates on the thinning performed.

108 STAFF: Submits for the record, written testimony from Barnes Forestry in support of SCR 2. (Exhibit B)

124 SEN JOHNSON: Lists submittals for the record (Exhibit I).

146 CHAIR FISHER: Closes Public Hearing on SCR 2
Opens Work Session on SCR 2

MOTION: REP. WELLS: Moves that SCR 2 A be sent to the Full Committee with a recommendation that it BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED

VOTE: In a roll call vote, all members that are present vote AYE. REP. WELSH is excused.

CHAIR FISHER: The motion CARRIES.

160 CHAIR FISHER: Closes Work Session on SCR 2
Opens the Public Hearing on HB 2568 and HB 2601 Concurrently.

166 STAFF: Presents overview of HB 2601. Bears have been removed, season was over moot point.

190 - Presents overview of HB 2568.

205 ROD INGRAM, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: Submits Exhibit C, regarding HB 2601 and Measure 18. Chances of success in taking a cougar without hounds is very slim.

- Offers amendments.

- Delete "upon application" line 6. Would rather refund to all

non-successful hunters, otherwise a lot of paperwork.

289 REP. JOSI: Questions the number of legal successful hunts.

300 INGRAM: Every cougar taken has to be reported to our office for biological history of takes.

316 REP. WELLS: Questions the procedure regarding the tag and a successful hunt.

325 INGRAM: Responds, tear out day and date on tag or be cited. All cougar taken in state must be taken to ODFW office and checked in .

337 REP. WELLS: Questions how many potential tags to be reimbursed.

341 INGRAM: Provides statistics; about 450 tags to be refunded. Fiscal impact about \$25,000.

358 REP. CORCORAN: Comments that there may be some rationale regarding date of effect of Measure 18, not interested in refunding money prior to implementation of law for those that already hunted and were not successful.

392 INGRAM: Explains, responds that there is no way to know if people actually hunted or not.

412 CHAIR FISHER: Thanks department for offering refund in the first place.

476 REP. LARRY SOWA: Submits Exhibit D and testifies, opposing HB 2568.

500 ROD INGRAM, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE: Submits Exhibit E, commenting on HB 2568. Doesn't think the hunters should have to pay for the damages incurred by the creatures protected from hunting by recent legislation.

598 REP. WELLS: Questions the Wildlife Fund, what it is and asks if we generally compensate for damage due to wildlife.

TAPE 16, B

002 INGRAM: Responds, explains fund. The state of Oregon does not currently compensate for damages due to wildlife.

039 ROD HARDER, OREGON SPORTSMENS DEFENSE FUND: Supports HB 2568. Submits Exhibit F and testifies from it. Supports HB 2601.

128 CHARLES WILLIAMSON, ATTORNEY, HUMANE SOCIETY: Opposes HB 2568, submits Exhibit G.

174 - Continues to read, cites letter from Dr. Paul Beier in his testimony regarding increase in human/cougar encounters.

220 - Suggests that liability be checked out before bill is passed.

232 - Regarding HB 2601, notes statistics regarding number of tags vs. number of cougar taken.

258 CHAIR FISHER: Closes the Public Hearing on HB 2568 and HB 2601
Opens the Work Session on HB 2568

MOTION: REP. JOSI: Moves that HB 2568 be sent to the Full Committee with a

DO PASS recommendation.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, REPS. JOSI, FISHER AND WELLS vote AYE. REPS. CORCORAN AND WELSH ARE EXCUSED.

CHAIR FISHER: The motion CARRIES.

285 CHAIR FISHER: Closes the Work Session on HB 2568
Opens the Work Session on HB 2601.

MOTION: REP. JOSI: Moves the -1 amendments, AS AMENDED by Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department proposals, BE ADOPTED.

VOTE: CHAIR FISHER: Hearing no objections, the amendments are ADOPTED. All members are present. REPS. CORCORAN AND WELSH are EXCUSED.

MOTION: REP. JOSI: Moves that HB 2601, AS AMENDED be referred to the Full Committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, REPS. JOSI, FISHER & WELLS vote AYE. REPS. CORCORAN & WELSH are EXCUSED.

324 CHAIR FISHER: Closes the Work Session on HB 2601

ADJOURNS THE MEETING AT 3:52 pm.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

GAIL E. BOESCH PAT ZWICK
Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

- A - Testimony relating to SCR 2 -- Paul F. Ehinger -- 18 pages
- B - Letter regarding SCR 2 -- Rick Barnes, Barnes Forestry Consultants --3 pages
- C - Testimony on HB 2601 -- Rod Ingram, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife --20 pages
- D - Testimony on HB 2568 -- Rep. Larry Sowa -- 1 page
- E - Testimony on HB 2568 -- Rod Ingram, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-- 3 pages
- F - Testimony on HB 2568 -- Rod Harder, Oregon Sportsmens Defense Fund Inc.--2 pages
- G - Testimony on HB 2568 -- Charles R. Williamson, Humane Society -- 6 pages
- H - Testimony on SCR 2 -- Ted Ferrioli, Malheur Timber Operators, Inc. -- 9 pages
- I - SCR 2; Information submitted by Senator Rod Johnson -- 35 pages

