



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 28, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HJM 6

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am writing to explain my vote against House Joint Memorial 6, following my earlier vote in favor of the measure in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. I made that earlier vote despite some reservations I had about the measure, as a courtesy to a colleague who encouraged me to allow for the Memorial to have a floor debate.

On the floor, I could not support the measure. It is my understanding that this body's Joint Memorials, when sent to Congress for consideration in federal lawmaking, rarely get much attention from those federal legislators. If we hope to influence Congress's decision-making around a complex area of policy such as wildfire management, we should share a more comprehensive vision of potential areas of reform than what this Joint Memorial provides. This measure focuses exclusively on logging -- "cooperative fuel load management" -- as a solution to the challenges around fire preparation and management. While managing the fuel load is certainly part of a comprehensive response, plenty more should be included if we want Congress to heed our call to action. I am hesitant to support any Memorial that doesn't talk about Good Neighbor Agreements, sheriff stewardships, coordination of different management strategies across diverse properties, and others among the myriad ideas needed for a real solution to this ongoing crisis.



I remain committed to addressing the threat that wildfires pose to our communities, and will happily urge our federal delegation to do the same on a national level. This Memorial, though, did not provide the means to address that threat, and I voted against it.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna Williams

State Representative, House District 52