

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

In the Matter of a Resolution )  
In Support of the Proposed ) RESOLUTION 12-3-8-1  
O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act )

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF YAMHILL COUNTY (“the Board”) sat for the transaction of county business in formal session on March 8, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 32 of the Courthouse, Commissioners Leslie Lewis, Kathy George, and Mary P. Stern being present.

WHEREAS, the unique, re-vested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, commonly known as “O&C lands,” once provided revenues vital to the economic survival of many county governments in Oregon, including Yamhill County, that did not have adequate revenues to provide essential public services, including the protection of public safety; and

WHEREAS, federal management of the O&C lands has reduced timber harvests by 90 percent over the last 20 years, depriving communities and industries of the raw material necessary to sustain local economies, provide employment opportunities, and fund stewardship and restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, three members of Oregon’s Congressional Delegation have proposed a bipartisan plan for management of about 50 percent of the O&C lands by an Oregon trust, under the laws of the State of Oregon, for sustained-yield timber production for the benefit of O&C counties and all Oregonians; and

WHEREAS, Representatives DeFazio, Walden, and Schrader have offered the O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act, which would result in restoration of revenues to counties sufficient to avert the financial crisis with which they are confronted, and allow the counties to continue to function with public safety and other essential services at acceptable levels; and

WHEREAS, the proposed O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act would ensure a sufficiently stable timber supply to justify investments in new plants and equipment, and provide raw material supporting manufacturing and other jobs, creating thousands of new jobs in parts of Oregon, including Yamhill County, where high unemployment rates are a chronic problem; and

WHEREAS, the proposed O&C Trust, Conservation and Jobs Act, in addition to helping revive an ailing economy, would ensure that timber and other resources are conserved for the benefit of current and future generations by requiring sustained-yield forestry, and by permanently protecting all remaining old-growth timber on more than one million acres of O&C lands, adding 90,000 acres to wilderness protection, and adding 150 miles of streams to wild and scenic protected status;

