

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7603

To amend the Act of August 28, 1937 (commonly referred to as the “O&C Act”) with respect to timber production.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Mr. BENTZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Act of August 28, 1937 (commonly referred to as the “O&C Act”) with respect to timber production.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “O&C Renewal Act of
5 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. TIMBER PRODUCTION AFFIRMED AS PRIMARY PUR-**
7 **POSE OF O&C LANDS.**

8 The first sentence of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43
9 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.; commonly referred to as the “O&C
10 Act”) is amended by striking “sustained yield” and all

1 that follows through the colon and inserting “sustained
2 yield. The primary purpose with respect to the use of such
3 lands shall be for permanent timber production carried out
4 in accordance with the principle of sustained yield to gen-
5 erate revenues to support county government services. The
6 secondary purposes with respect to the use of the land are
7 to contribute to the economic stability of local commu-
8 nities and industries, protect watersheds, regulate water
9 flow, provide recreational opportunities, and reduce the
10 risk of catastrophic wildfires.”.

11 **SEC. 3. FIRE PROTECTION FOR O&C LANDS.**

12 Section 5 of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C.
13 2601 et seq.; commonly referred to as the “O&C Act”)
14 is amended by striking “Provided” and all that follows
15 through the period at the end and inserting “*Provided,*
16 The Secretary shall, with respect to such timberlands (1)
17 meet or exceed the fire protection standards and capacity
18 and readiness applicable to lands adjacent to such
19 timberlands that are under the jurisdiction of the State
20 of Oregon; (2) enter into fire protection agreements with
21 the State of Oregon and applicable forest protective asso-
22 ciations to meet the requirements under paragraph (1);
23 and (3) provide compensation for services provided under
24 any agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (2).”.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF TIMBERLANDS.**

2 Title I of the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C.
3 2601 et seq.; commonly referred to as the “O&C Act”)
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 6. DEFINITION OF TIMBERLANDS.**

6 “For purposes of this Act, the term ‘timberlands’
7 shall include lands bearing or capable of bearing a growth
8 of timber not less than 300,000 feet board measure on
9 each 40-acre subdivision.”.

10 **SEC. 5. REVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.**

11 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue
13 a record of decision revising each resource management
14 plan relating to the lands under the Act of August 28,
15 1937 (43 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.; commonly referred to as
16 the “O&C Act”) and designating timberlands in accord-
17 ance with the amendments made by this Act.

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