

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

3/21/2019

RESOLUTION 2019.16

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Withdrawal of Lane County from the Association of O&C

Counties

WHEREAS, the Association of O&C Counties (AOCC) claims to represent 16 county governments in western Oregon that have historically received money from logging publicly-owned forests on O&C lands; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the AOCC has become increasingly aligned with the timber industry, as demonstrated by their various lobbying and litigation efforts to open protected public lands—such as the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument—to commercial logging; and

WHEREAS, in February 2017 the AOCC filed a lawsuit against the federal government to overturn protections for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the AOCC has testified and lobbied Congress to shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, mandate that O&C lands produce a bare minimum of one-half billion board feet per year, and exempt logging projects up to 45 square miles in size from environmental analysis and citizen oversight; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 2.6 million acres of O&C land in Western Oregon, mostly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 374,000 acres of O&C land in Lane County—only Douglas and Jackson Counties have more O&C acreage; and

WHEREAS, historically, counties with O&C lands received a cut of the revenue from unsustainably-high levels of logging on these public lands, but Secure Rural Schools legislation (sponsored by Senator Ron Wyden) has provided payments to counties de-coupled from logging for the past 16 years; and

WHEREAS, withdrawing from the AOCC would have no impact on the Secure Rural Schools funding Lane County receives; and

WHEREAS, Lane County spent \$107,000 to help fund the AOCC in FY2018 with over a quarter of those funds funneled directly into anti-public lands litigation and pro-logging litigation; and

WHEREAS, two counties—Multnomah and Benton—have already withdrawn from the AOCC.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To support the withdrawal of Lane County from the Association of O&C Counties.

SECTION 2: To communicate our support to the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, March 21, 2019**