



***Lane County Republican Party Central Committee
Resolution***

Resolution to join the Linn County class action lawsuit

WHEREAS: The Linn County Commissioners are Pursuing Breach of Contract Class Action Lawsuit Against State of Oregon on Behalf of Forest Trust Land Counties and Local Districts; and

WHEREAS: The state is violating its contract with Forest Trust Land Counties by implementing a management plan that results in an annual \$35 million reduction in revenue to the counties; and

WHEREAS: This breach of contract has had devastating effects on local communities that have seen both poverty and unemployment rates skyrocket in the last two decades as a result of the current practices; and

WHEREAS: Oregon courts have ruled that the state is contractually bound to manage Forest Trust lands for the benefit of the 15 counties it actively sought and acquired land from in western Oregon over 70 years ago; and

WHEREAS: John Dilorenzo, counsel to Linn County and partner at the law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP said. "The state has improperly altered management criteria for the Forest Trust Lands and subsequently failed to generate the appropriate level of timber revenue to the Forest; and

WHEREAS: Court rulings defining the relationship between state and Forest Trust Land Counties confirm that the forest trust land counties and their local districts are entitled to the benefitt of their bargain; and

WHEREAS: This class action lawsuit, representing over 150 taxing districts and counties, seeks over \$1.4 billion in damages - 935 million per year from 2001 to present; and

WHEREAS: We find our labor costs going up five to seven percent each year due to contracts that are guided by state statutes; and

WHEREAS: We are also limited to annual three percent property tax increases as a result of the passage of measures 47 and 50; and

WHEREAS: The State has improperly altered management criteria for the Forest Trust Lands. As a result, the State has failed to generate and transfer to class members the appropriate levels of timber revenue; and

WHEREAS: the Forest Trust Land Counties acquired hundreds of thousands of acres of forest lands by tax foreclosure; and



WHEREAS: The consequent removal of these forest lands from the tax rolls of the Forest Trust Land Counties created substantial financial burdens on the counties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Lane County Republican Party Central Committee shall seek for the Lane County Commissioners to join the Linn County Commissioners class action lawsuit.

Adopted this 14th day of January, 2016 by the Lane County Republican Party Central Committee in session.