

To: Joint Committee on Carbon
Re: HB2020 Testimony in Springfield, OR
Date: 2/22/2019

Thank you, Chair Power, Chair Dembrow, members of the committee, my name is Bob Henry and I live in Roseburg OR. Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to come to Springfield to hear from Oregonians. I appreciate your efforts to hear from diverse interests. I'm here today to testify in opposition to HB 2020 as drafted.

I'm practicing professional logger in southwest Oregon with 40 years of experience in both production and management. I can tell you from experience and from scientific data that the life cycle of managing forest products – from seedling to long-term carbon storage in wood products – is at least carbon neutral, if not carbon beneficial. As you well know trees use sunlight to take carbon out of the air and turn it into renewable and sustainable building products. Life-cycle analyses reveal that lumber and other solid wood products store more carbon, emit fewer greenhouse gases and use less fossil energy than steel, concrete, brick or vinyl, whose manufacture is energy intensive and produces substantial emissions.

Not only is Oregon the largest softwood producer in the U.S, but Oregon's forests also serve as a carbon sink. Across all ownership types Oregon forest grow more trees every year than are removed through harvest, fire, insect or disease. The most productive forest lands in the Pacific Northwest on average produce five times more wood than any other forestlands in the US.

As forest landowners grow trees, they provide all Oregonians with clean air, the cleanest drinking water of any land use in the state, ample recreation opportunities and abundant wildlife habitat. Those trees literally take pollution out of the air and store it wood buildings – like the First Tech Federal Credit Union in Hillsboro, which is currently the largest wood building in the US. It took Oregon's timberlands only 46 minutes to produce the wood in that building, and it stores enough carbon in its wood to offset pollution produced by 1,200 cars in one year.

Oregon also has the strictest reforestation laws on the west coast. More than 40 million tree seedlings are hand-planted in Oregon every year, and those young, fast growing trees pull carbon out the atmosphere at a faster rate than older trees. A study released just this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that more than half of the carbon stored in the world's forests are located in regions where the trees are relatively young.

Oregon's forests can contribute to a real climate solution by using the carbon stored in wood products to avoid fossil fuel emissions from production of alternative, carbon-intensive building materials. Moving stored carbon out of the forest and into structures creates a more stable long-term carbon storage solution.

HB 2020 should recognize the carbon neutrality of the entire forestry sector, from growing trees to milling lumber. It should explicitly recognize carbon storage in wood products and the cycle of harvest and reforestation on working forests as part of the solution to climate change.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Bob Henry
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