

Submitter: Melissa Thompson

On Behalf Of: Titan Timber Corp

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

Chair Golden and members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to submit opposition testimony on SB 1534. Our forests are one of the greatest solutions to climate change. PERIOD. Oregon is one of the best places in the world to grow trees, and we do it brilliantly! It's why Oregon is the national leader in production of carbon-storing building materials. Oregon also sets the standards for forest management for the nation and the example for the world. WE DO CARBON CONTROL BEST BECAUSE WE MANAGE OUR FORESTS!

I'm horribly concerned that some of the definitions in SB 1534 fall short of maximizing our forests' potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. The bill shortchanges the long-term carbon storage benefits of building with wood products in favor of policy that would reduce timber harvests. It will kill jobs and ruin the hard work of so many Oregonians that took the time to make sure we did set that precedence for proper forest management. We VITALLY need those jobs that the forest industry provides to this state. Our population is going to continue to grow, and we will need structures in which to live and work. We need the various timber producing products for everyday life. Last time I checked... Toilet Paper was still on everyone's priority list... and that is still a timber product. Don't take Oregon's title as leader of timber producing products (and carbon sequestration) and give it to countries that have little or no environmental policies in place, nor care about the end results of bad practices. It just makes no sense.

The people have already spoke on this repeatedly. The overwhelming response is NO! It is poorly written without the research and science to back it. It kills forests. It kills jobs. It will destroy the Oregon we all know and love. There's NO reason to pass this bill in the short session. Please slow down and take the time to hear from experts in the field and bring an improved version of this bill back in the future when it's ready.

Thank you.

Melissa Thompson
Titan Timber Corp.
Owner/CEO