



BIOMASS ONE, LP

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March 30, 2023

Joint Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St. NE

Salem Oregon 97301

Re: HB 5018- Support

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham and Members of the Committee,

We at Biomass One, LP would like to voice our support of House Bill 5018 to provide funding for the DEQ to further address air quality in Oregon. Senate Bill 762 provided funds for the DEQ to use for air quality project grants and our business was fortunate enough to get one of the air quality grants (Smoke Management and Alternatives to Open Burning) that provided funding for a project that we would not otherwise been able to undertake.

The project was to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of using a piece of equipment to “masticate” (grind) ladder fuels and similar residuals to reduce high hazard fuel loading on projects too small for traditional recovery techniques, while leaving mulch behind to biodegrade so no open burning was needed. While the final accounting information has not yet been completed, preliminary calculations show that we are very close to our estimated costs and that this practice will be very competitive in price with hand piling and burning (the traditional control technique). It has allowed us to provide a valuable service to the community by reducing fire hazards for homeowners/forest owners at lower cost than traditional methods and avoid the emission of smoke from these projects into the air shed.

There is a significant need/demand for this type of service and without the grant we would have been unable to demonstrate the viability of this smoke-free control technique.

Providing adequate funding to the DEQ would allow it to continue to use innovative approaches to solving Oregon’s air quality problems. In our case, this service currently is much sought after and if similar funding becomes available, it could allow us to expand the amount of area treated or possibly allow another similar business to begin providing this service.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt E. Lumpkin".

Kurt E. Lumpkin

General Manager

Biomass One, LP