



February 11, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
HR F
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 458 – Related to U.S. Highway 30.

Dear Committee Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) respectfully supports [Senate Bill 458](#), requiring an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) study of U.S. Highway 30 between mileposts 49 and 94, on behalf of our members and their employees who are an integral part of the circular economy.

Introduction to AF&PA

AF&PA serves to advance U.S. paper and wood products manufacturers through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. The forest products industry is circular by nature. AF&PA member companies make essential products from renewable and recyclable resources, generate renewable bioenergy and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative — [Better Practices, Better Planet 2030: Sustainable Products for a Sustainable Future](#). The forest products industry accounts for approximately five percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures about \$350 billion in products annually and employs about 925,000 people. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$65 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 43 states.

In Oregon, the forest products industry employs more than 35,900 individuals, with an annual payroll of over \$2.6 billion. The estimated state and local taxes paid by the forest products industry total \$276 million annually.¹

Impact of SB 458

AF&PA is committed to the safety of the industry's essential workforce, promoting programs to prevent serious injuries and fatalities, and working towards the aspirational goal of zero injuries. Industry employees in the area depend on U.S. Highway 30 every day, and the growing number of tragic fatalities between mileposts 49 and 94 underscores the need for action. Senate Bill 458 is a critical first step in assessing the current hazards and identifying targeted improvements for road safety.

¹ Data sources: U.S. government, AF&PA, and Fastmarkets RISI. Figures are the most recent available as of December 2022.

SB 458 will establish the necessary baseline conditions to evaluate safety risks and infrastructure deficiencies. By identifying strategic improvements—such as increased signage, better traffic flow management, and potential road design adjustments—the state can take meaningful steps toward reducing fatalities and ensuring a safer, more efficient transportation network. This study will provide lawmakers with the data needed to prioritize funding and solutions that protect both Oregon’s workforce and its economic drivers.

We encourage Oregon to promote measures to increase safety by requiring ODOT to study potential improvements to U.S. Highway 30. We stand ready to assist you and offer our expertise as a resource as you consider this important issue. Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Frazier Willman, AF&PA’s Manager of Government Affairs at [Frazier Willman@afandpa.org](mailto:Frazier_Willman@afandpa.org).