



Northwest Pulp & Paper
ASSOCIATION

Submitted via OLIS

February 11, 2025

Re: NWPPA comments in support of SB 458

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 458 – Senator Weber’s Highway 30 study bill studying the road conditions from Astoria to the Lewis and Clark Bridge.

NWPPA is a 69-year-old non-profit, regional trade association representing 10 member companies and 13 pulp and paper mills in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Five (5) of our member mills are located in Oregon. One of our members, Georgia Pacific, operates a mill in Wauna and Highway 30 is the only way for employees to access the mill. Therefore, every employee of the mill utilizes Highway 30 twice each workday, in addition to contractors and suppliers who frequent the mill site.

The safety of Wauna’s employees is a priority, which includes safe travel to and from work. In the last three years, there have been four fatal car crashes at or near milepost 59, where there is an S-curve. With Highway 30 serving as the only point of access to the mill, this increases the likelihood of a mill employee, contractor, or supplier experiencing an incident.

Highway 30 is the major highway for the North Coast, and it is essential that ODOT prioritize investments that ensure the safety of its travelers. While we understand that ODOT and OSP resources are stretched and enforcement is likely to continue to be an issue, it is imperative that any and all design and engineering controls be studied in order to identify improvement opportunities that are likely to decrease the number of incidents.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express our support of SB 458 and we ask for a yes vote to move the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Jackie White
Director of Regulatory and Technical Affairs