

Submitter: Paul Anderes
On Behalf Of: Eastern Oregon Counties
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1061

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,
My name for the record is Paul Anderes, I am a Union County commissioner and also, I serve as the Chair of Eastern Oregon Counties Association (representing 16 counties East of the Cascades), and I am here today to express my strong support for Oregon Senate Bill 1061 This legislation has been and will continue to be a priority of EOCA. This bill represents an important step forward in promoting sustainable forestry practices, supporting local economies, and addressing critical housing needs in our state.

SB 1061 establishes a certification program that allows for the use of locally milled dimension lumber in one- and two-family residential construction. This certification ensures that participants who complete the training and pass the associated exam have the proper knowledge to safely and effectively grade lumber under the local use dimension lumber system. With certification and requiring a recertification process, the program would maintain high standards for lumber quality and safety.

The value of this bill is multifaceted. First, it directly benefits Oregon's small-scale timber operators, empowering them to mill much of which is from small acreage that are not economically feasible and often salvage. This creates new economic opportunities in rural areas while promoting sustainable forest management practices. By allowing qualified individuals to utilize timber resources efficiently, SB 1061 reduces waste and strengthens Oregon's local economy.

Second, this bill addresses our state's urgent need for affordable housing. By expanding access to locally milled lumber, SB 1061 lowers material costs for residential construction projects. This makes it easier for homeowners, builders, and developers to construct safe, affordable homes in communities across Oregon.

Finally, SB 1061 aligns with Oregon's commitment to environmental stewardship. By encouraging the use of locally sourced materials, the bill reduces the environmental impact associated with transporting lumber from distant suppliers such as Canada.

This localized approach supports both our forests and our climate goals.

This legislation reminds me of Oregon in the 1980s. Craft brewing was just getting started. There were many changes in laws, rules & regulations. Look where we are today. We would all be drinking Budweiser if not for bold and visionary legislation.

In conclusion, SB 1061 offers a practical, effective solution that benefits Oregon's timber industry, housing market, and environmental objectives. I respectfully urge your support for this important legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

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