

Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Bonham, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1061.

My name is Kate McMichael. I am a small woodland owner in Lane County, a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (serving on both the statewide and our local chapter's Boards) and my wife and I are proud of our property's certification under the Oregon Tree Farm System.

In 2020, our 39-acre forest burned in the Holiday Farm Fire. One of the few consolations at the time of our small salvage harvest was the hope that some of our burned trees were able to provide lumber for post-fire rebuilding efforts. Since then, a number of our remaining larger trees that survived the fire are succumbing to an assorted combination of environmental and weather factors since 2020 that is "gifting" us with fallen trees. While each one is a heartbreaking loss to us on a personal level, there are not enough trees to warrant a further salvage operation—but these trees could, with a portable milling operation nearby, provide viable lumber for small building projects on our own or our neighbors' properties. This would provide not only work for people trained in a programs envisioned in SB 1061, but also allow for a heartbreaking loss to be mitigated by the pride we could take in seeing our own lumber, from our own trees, used on our property or in our own woodland community—the ultimate in keeping things local and sustainable.

Our story is not unique. There are many small woodland owners throughout Oregon—and many small sawmills as well. With appropriate effort to work through any issues standing in the way of whole-hearted support for this program these smaller operations would not threaten the viability of larger milling operations nor the integrity of recognized lumber grading standards. Rather, it would provide support for small woodland owners, local small operations, and sustainable local building efforts.

All of these potentially positive outcomes warrant the necessary effort to craft this bill into a viable plan that can be supported by all stakeholders. I urge the Committee to support SB 1061 and to commit to working to resolve any issues that stand in the way of its passage.

Thank you.