

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1061

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1061, which requires the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service to establish a lumber grading training program. This initiative is essential for enhancing the skills and knowledge of individuals within the forestry and lumber industries, ultimately benefiting our economy and promoting sustainable practices.

As you know, the lumber industry is a vital part of Oregon's economy, providing jobs and supporting local communities. However, the increasing complexity of lumber grading standards and practices necessitates a well-trained workforce that can meet these demands effectively. By establishing a formal training program, we can ensure that our lumber graders are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills to perform their jobs competently and confidently.

Furthermore, a lumber grading training program will help improve the overall quality and safety of our timber products. Properly graded lumber is crucial for construction and manufacturing, and it directly impacts the durability and safety of structures. By investing in training, we can enhance the quality of our lumber, ensuring that it meets industry standards and consumer expectations.

Additionally, this program will promote the sustainable use of our forest resources. Educating individuals about responsible grading practices will lead to better decisions regarding resource management, ultimately contributing to the health of our forests and the environment. Sustainable practices not only benefit our ecosystems but also enhance the long-term viability of the lumber industry.

Moreover, creating a training program will foster greater collaboration between Oregon State University and the lumber industry, encouraging innovation and research that can lead to improvements in grading techniques and overall practices. This partnership can help position Oregon as a leader in the lumber industry, attracting investments and opportunities for growth.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support SB 1061 and urge you to advocate for its passage. Establishing a lumber grading training program is a proactive step that will benefit our economy, enhance the quality of our timber products, and promote sustainable practices within the industry. Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.