

March 25, 2025

SB 1061

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony towards SB 1061.

My name is Paul Harlan. I am a lifelong Oregonian, OSU graduate and recently retired in 2020 from 34 years in the Forest Products industry as a Forester, Resource Manager, Sawmill Manager and Vice President – Resources for a privately held forest products company. I have spent my whole career working and living in small rural communities here in Oregon.

My wife and I live in Enterprise, OR and own and operate a small tree farm, Boulder Slope Tree Farm. I currently am the President of the North East Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA), representing small woodland owners in Wallowa, Union, Baker, Grant, and Harney County.

The ability to operate our small forest land ownerships in rural Oregon is a challenge, especially in Eastern Oregon where it is not unusual for markets for our materials to be over 100 miles distant. This distance practically negates any financial incentives for managing these lands long term.

But as forest landowners we take the responsibility and pride of ownership very seriously and to heart.

Many Oregonians do the same with other things. For example, we all know families that raise their own beef so that they can eventually harvest the animal and take solace in knowing where their food came

from and under what conditions. People today raise chickens for the eggs. Further I have a friend in Washington County that purchased a hybrid vehicle and now looks daily with pride at how his solar panels are not only providing most of their own power for their home and their vehicle but also able to sell some back on to the grid.

Many small woodland owners are not interested in just building a structure, but in taking pride in its roots and in their personal contribution to the success of the project. The CLT and Mass Timber used in the new OSU Forestry building was not just touted as being CLT/Mass Timber but most importantly that it was developed and manufactured right here in Oregon. Taking pride in the story, not just the structure. An emphasis of this bill is aimed at the story of sustainability and utilization, not the structure itself.

The red tape of Lumber Grading associations, building codes and the scale of economies gets in the way of being able to showcase and highlight the use of local wood in a select project. SB 1061 aims to cut through this and make it a reality.

This story is not unique to eastern Oregon as a region but is more in line with small woodland owners statewide. I think this is an important critical underlying piece of this bill.

There has been discussion around SB 1061 and some of the obstacles to its implementation. Like most proposals if the parties get together to work through these issues an equitable solution can be found that address the issues and make the Bill better in the long run. I strongly encourage the Committee to allow for this discussion, ask questions,

challenge answers, and help facilitate the discussion of a workable final bill for all.

All rural Oregon, not just Eastern Oregon, should be taking pride in how our small woodlands are being managed for future generations and the health and vitality of Oregon as a whole. Allowing select projects to utilize locally grown and manufactured forest products should bring pride to our communities and to our efforts.

Our members of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association NE Chapter, representing Harney, Grant, Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties ask you to support SB 1061 to a successful conclusion.

Respectfully,

Paul Harlan, President

NE Oregon Small Woodlands Association Chapter

Boulder Slope Tree Farm

Enterprise, OR