



Western Wood Products Association

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Testimony on Opposition to SB 1061 to Oregon Senate Committee on Labor and Business April 7, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and distinguished members of the committee

My name is Kevin Cheung, Ph.D., Chief Engineer of Western Wood Products Association (WWPA). I like to provide the reasons we oppose SB 1061.

Lumber grading is a skill acquired by individuals with a lot of practice and coaching. Classroom training can be a start but far from what is needed. It is like playing a sport, it is practice and practice with coaching. Just classroom training will not do the job to successfully train individuals to be certified lumber graders.

WWPA, an Oregon-based 503(c)(6) non-profit third-part lumber inspection agency serving lumber mills in the 12 western states plus Alaska. Twenty-two (22) of our member lumber mills are in Oregon. We have a registry of over 700 lumber graders being inspected, over 380 of them are active certified lumber graders. The process to become a certified lumber grader involves at least 6 months grading lumber under the supervision of skilled certified lumber graders and monitored regularly by certified lumber inspectors. WWPA inspectors check their performance on grading accuracy monthly. After an individual has accumulated 15,000 board foot of lumber graded with an error margin <5%, the individual will be certified.

Ask the instructor qualified to teach the class if he/she is confident that they can train individuals in a classroom to be “certified” lumber graders. I expect the answer to be no.

The class attendees should be given certificates of attendance/completion but not the title of Certified Lumber Graders.

We have questions on product liability. That is an area needing a lot of thoughts but not addressed in SB 1061.

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