



Written Testimony for the Record: SB 1061 – Self-Graded Lumber Program

Submitted by: Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC)

Date: April 7, 2025

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) submits the following testimony for the record regarding SB 1061.

We would like to express our appreciation to Senator Nash for his continued engagement and willingness to incorporate several key amendments to SB 1061 in response to concerns raised by OFIC and others in the forest products sector. Notably, we are grateful that the -4 amendment includes a **liability shield** that protects manufacturers and distributors of ALSC-accredited, agency-stamped lumber from liability in cases where self-graded lumber is incorporated into the same structure. This is a critical improvement, and in light of that amendment, **OFIC is now neutral on SB 1061**.

However, while we no longer oppose the bill, we wish to clearly outline several **remaining concerns** that we believe warrant attention — either in final rulemaking or in possible future legislative refinement:

1. Geographic Scope of the Program

The policy rationale for SB 1061 is based on the unique conditions in **Eastern Oregon**, where long haul distances and inconsistent timber supply prevent investment in traditional sawmills. Furthermore, a lack of grading infrastructure stands as a barrier to micro-milling opportunities. The bill aims to create opportunities for micro-milling and localized use of lumber in home construction for personal use.

These constraints do **not** exist on the **west side** of the state, where there is robust access to mills and grading infrastructure. For this reason, OFIC continues to believe the program should be geographically limited to the east side to ensure it addresses actual need without introducing unnecessary exceptions into functioning markets.

2. Training Program Duration and Rigor

The bill currently contemplates a **one-day training course**. OFIC maintains that a **minimum two-day training requirement** is necessary to support safe, consistent grading of structural lumber. Given the technical complexity of visual grading and the long-standing reliance on grade values in

the building code, a modest increase in training time would strengthen public trust and program integrity.

3. Clarification of Sale and Use Provisions

Further refinement is needed regarding the **sale and use** of self-graded lumber — particularly the circumstances under which it may be transferred to a third party and how that transfer is documented. The -4 amendment includes language requiring that the “self-graded lumber must originate from a known source, requiring a documented relationship or permit between the lumber owner and the purchaser of the milled lumber”. While we appreciate the attempt to define or limit who can produce self-graded lumber for whom, **OFIC does not believe that a simple “bill of sale” should constitute a sufficient “documented relationship.”**

Allowing a bill of sale to qualify opens the door to **too broad a range of transactions**, effectively permitting commercial sale without adequate safeguards. This significantly weakens the public policy justification for allowing exceptions to the long-standing requirement for **accredited, agency-stamped lumber** in the building codes — especially in regions of the state where grading infrastructure already exists.

Conclusion

We appreciate the substantial improvements made to the bill and Senator Nash’s efforts to make the program workable while addressing concerns from across the industry. OFIC is no longer opposed to SB 1061, but we submit this testimony to ensure the record reflects **where additional clarity or refinement may be beneficial** as the program is implemented and evaluated.

We remain committed to working with the sponsor, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, the OSU College of Forestry and OSU Extension to support a responsible and well-administered program moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Edwards

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