

May 6, 2025

Representatives Helm & Owens, Co-Chairs  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Support for SB 1061-4, Lumber Grading Bill**

Dear Co-Chairs Meek and Owens and Members of the Committee.

I request that this letter be entered into the public record on this matter. **I support SB 1061 and its -4 amendment.**

First, a little background about us. My wife and I are small forestland owners and we own and actively manage about 101 acres of forestland in western Oregon near Estacada, which we have been doing for over 30 years. I am also a retired civil/structural engineer and have been involved in the design and plans review of hundreds of structures, ranging from conventional residential construction (utilizing the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) as well as the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC) for more complex residences) to larger commercial and industrial buildings and structures (which must utilize the OSSC).

This bill and its -4 amendment have several stringent requirements regarding grading certification and limitations on the use of lumber graded under these provisions to the following:

1. **ONLY** conventional, residential structures that are allowed to use the ORSC may use this lumber. This makes sense as rarely are structural building materials (i.e. floor, ceiling, wall and roof framing) stressed to a high degree to create a life-safety risk in these types of structures, and residences are typically not frequented by the public. Furthermore, the ORSC gives the Building Official the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the municipality in situations where a concern regarding the design or construction may arise for any reason. Lastly, the ORSC requires the use of pressure preservative-treated lumber in cases where such lumber is exposed to earth (e.g. foundations), so this lumber must still be procured elsewhere.
2. Those who desire to grade lumber must pursue a formal certification and recertification regimen. During the development of this program, in my opinion, the instructional hours may need to be increased if it is found that eight hours is not sufficient.
3. Those who will perform the certification instruction must be qualified under this bill.
4. There is a paper trail to alert the Building Official and current and future homeowners (part of the permanent deed) of the home of the incorporation of lumber graded under these provisions.
5. There is a liability shield that protects those who manufacture and sell agency-stamped lumber where it is mixed in with lumber graded under these provisions.

Additionally, from a practical standpoint, I believe that the use of lumber graded under these provisions will be fairly limited in extent but nonetheless be of great benefit to those desiring such lumber. It will benefit those in the more rural areas of the state, particularly eastern Oregon where long transport distances and a limited timber supply exist due to the dwindling number of local sawmills. The ample supply of lumber in many parts of western Oregon will likely limit the use of this lumber to predominantly those choosing to cut and mill their own on their own property.

In summary, this bill will benefit those in our state desiring to use such lumber with very minimal risk.

Sincerely,

David Bugni  
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Estacada, OR