



May 11, 2025

The Honorable Ken Helm and Honorable Mark Owens
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1061, *A Bill for An Act Relating to a lumber grading training program*

Dear Chair Helm, Chair Owens and distinguished members of the Committee:

The American Wood Council (AWC) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments in response to amended Senate Bill 1061, *A Bill for An Act Relating to lumber grading training program*.

AWC represents 86 percent of the structural wood products industry and the almost 465,000 men and women working family-wage jobs in mills across the country. From dimension lumber to engineered wood products, we champion the development of data, technology, and standards to ensure the best use of wood products and recognition of their unique sustainability and carbon-reduction benefits. We are leaders in providing education to the design, code and fire official communities who view AWC as a trusted and credible resource.

AWC recognizes and appreciates the work of Senator Nash and Senate Committee on Labor and Business to amend SB 1061 in response to previous comments of concern from our organization and others in the wood products industry. AWC believes the amended version of the bill includes important changes that address many of our previous concerns.

While we perceive the engrossed version as a significant improvement for the proposed legislation, AWC would like to highlight an additional area to strengthen the bill further. To increase consistency with the intent of the engrossed bill's language, AWC submits the following proposed replacement language for Section 2.(3)(a) of the engrossed bill:

~~(a) May not establish, create or accept any new grade or design value as part of the state's building code.~~

(a) Shall be equivalent to the requirements of DOC PS 20 as referenced in the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

The performance of wood buildings, especially when subject to the forces of natural disasters, such as high wind or snow, is dependent on lumber that is properly marked and graded for strength. Graded lumber is lumber that conforms to the U.S. Department of Commerce's PS 20 standard which establishes criteria to provide for industry-wide standard sizes and grade mark labeling of lumber by mills using the services of an

American Wood Council
601 Thirteenth Street NW, Suite 1000 N
Washington, DC 20005
O: 202 463 2766
awc.org



accredited agency. Our proposed amendment will increase consistency with the consensus-based code development process of the International Code Council (ICC) and used in the State of Oregon.

Current provisions of the Oregon Building Code and Oregon Residential Specialty Code, taken from the *International Building Code* (IBC) and *International Residential Code* (IRC), require that lumber stamped with a grade marking conforms to the PS 20 standard or equivalent. The lumber grading rules in this standard ensure consistent and reliable stress values on which the engineering and construction industries rely. Maintaining consistency with the building code requirements in Oregon by ensuring PS 20 standard equivalence would eliminate the structural safety concerns we currently hold. In order to meet Oregon's code requirements, any new lumber grading training program established by this bill would have to be in equivalence with the PS 20 standard.

Again, AWC would like to express our appreciation to Senator Nash and the legislature for their attention and engagement regarding our concerns. We appreciate the opportunity to provide additional comment on this legislation and incorporated amendments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number below. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Layden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Will Layden

Vice President, Government Affairs
American Wood Council
Email: wlayden@awc.org
Phone: 202-463-2788