

May 12, 2025

SB 1061

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, 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 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. I also am a Licensed Professional Forester in California (RPF #2451).

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. Our forests filter water, take up CO<sub>2</sub>, moderate temperature fluctuations, provide habitat for wildlife, and importantly tie the interactions between man and nature in a controlled manner. We enjoy this responsibility of being the middle ground between man and nature.

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. Taking pride in being self-sufficient and lessening our footprint on our surroundings.

We personally have done small scale harvesting over the last 4 years and one of those loads went to a local portable sawmill in Joseph, OR only 5 miles from our home.



At the same time my wife and I did an extensive remodel on our home and would have liked to have proudly featured some of that material back in to our project as structural lumber certified under a program as outlined in SB 1061. What a chance to highlight not only our long-term commitment to the forest resources but also proudly tying it to the very home that we now enjoy.



There are many small sawmills located throughout all our Oregon counties. This bill would allow this local use of resources for both landowners as well as homeowners. Taking pride in our communities. And keeping things local and sustainable. SB 1061 would allow this in a controlled and measured way.

I strongly support SB 1061 and ask for its full consideration during its vetting. Don't let organizations outside of Oregon dictate to us how we conduct our business. I would ask for your support of SB 1061.

Respectfully,

Paul Harlan

Boulder Slope Tree Farm

Enterprise, OR