



Western Wood Products Association

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Testimony: Opposition to SB 1061 A

**To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
May 12, 2025**

Good morning. Co-Chairs Representative Ken Helm and Representative Mark Owen, and distinguished members of the committee

My name is Kevin Cheung, representing Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I like to provide the reasons we oppose SB 1061 A.

Lumber grading is a skill acquired by individuals with a lot of practice and coaching. Classroom training of 8 hours can be a start but far from what is needed.

WWPA, an Oregon-based 503(c)(6) non-profit third-party lumber inspection agency accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee's (ALSC) Board of Review. We are serving over 90 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 lumber inspectors of the third-party lumber inspection agency. 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.

On another point. There is little information about the cost to create a program, expected student demand, student fees and expected losses. We believe it is more cost effective to offer grants for those require in-situ lumber grading services to utilizing existing lumber agencies, rather than creating an entire new grader training system that operates outside of the ALSC system.

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