



Government Relations
Oregon State University
500 Kerr Administration
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

May 13, 2025

Representatives Ken Helm & Mark Owens
Co-Chairs of House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: SB 1061A, Pilot Program of Lumber Grading Training for Small Operators

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens,

Following the hearing on SB 1061A, I thought it would be helpful to clarify a few items related to Oregon State University (OSU) Extension's implementation of the bill.

OSU Extension does not currently have faculty with training or expertise in lumber grading. However, we have been in conversations with Dr. Adam Taylor Professor and Wood Products Extension Specialist at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Dr. Taylor and another staff member are responsible for conducting the [trainings](#) in Tennessee in accordance with the Tennessee Native Species Lumber Act (TN SB 822, 2016).

Dr. Taylor is willing to travel to Oregon to conduct two 1-day *Structural Lumber Grading* pilot workshops in Oregon in calendar year 2026 in coordination with key OSU Extension specialists. Locations are to be determined; however, La Grande and Roseburg are suggested pilot program locations to allow for maximum participation across the state. The intent is to conduct the two trainings in a one-week period in order to use resources efficiently. Target audience for the trainings would be operators of small sawmills.

By conducting the above pilot trainings, personnel within OSU Extension will gain a better understanding of the potential demand for such trainings, how such a system would operate in Oregon, details of the requirements for the specific grades, skills needed for the trainers, administrative needs, lessons learned in Tennessee and hence obstacles to avoid.

In the hearing, there were questions regarding the cost to Extension for implementing the programs. **OSU has submitted a fiscal on SB 1061A with the -5 amendments. The estimated cost to implement the program is \$53,021.** This includes covering Dr. Taylor's travel and honorarium, meeting rental space, training materials, and OSU personnel costs and travel expenses.

A similar fiscal was submitted in the Senate. OSU Extension is appreciative of the financial support from the State of Oregon, but the legislature is not our only funding source. State funds are matched with county and federal funds as was envisioned by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 that created the nation Extension Service system. Without a state appropriation to assist in the implementation of SB 1061A, funding will need to be diverted from other Extension program areas. This is at a time where federal funding appropriations are uncertain, and budgets are already being impacted. OSU requests that you send SB 1061A to Ways & Means Committee so an appropriation could be considered.

Sincerely,
Katie Fast
Executive Director of Government Relations

