

Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Testimony in Support of Rural Oregon Modular Mass Timber Workforce Housing  
Lottery Bond Request, Senate Bill 5701**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am writing in support of the Regional Rural Revitalization (R3) Strategies Consortium 's request for capital in Senate Bill 5701 to complete site improvements and modular mass timber workforce housing in four construction-ready subdivisions in Vale, John Day, Burns, and Baker City (House District 60).

As the Director of Design for the TallWood Design Institute, a collaboration between the University of Oregon's (UO) College of Design and Oregon State University's (OSU) College of Forestry and College of Engineering, I have been working with the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition, which includes UO, OSU, the Port of Portland, Business Oregon, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, which received an Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Reginal Challenge (BBBRC) Award in 2022, to promote a number of projects leading to increased production of mass timber products in rural Oregon counties and increased production of modular mass timber housing. One of the UO projects is a panelized modular mass timber two-bedroom, two-story workforce house, constructed of mass plywood panels manufactured by Freres Engineered Wood in Lyons, Oregon. Prefabricated modular mass timber housing can be constructed more rapidly and be more resilient than traditional light-wood-frame housing and can provide mass timber panel manufacturing jobs in rural communities.

We have been working with R3 which has committed to a pilot project of four units of this mass plywood house prototype in Burns, Oregon. Pilot projects are critical to proof-of-concept for this new housing type, to give developers and homebuyers confidence in its constructability, cost, and livability. The funding R3 is requesting would be a very significant step in the deployment of this prototype and other mass timber modular housing in rural communities in Oregon, where workforce housing is very much needed.

For these reasons, I am writing to respectfully urge you to support the R3 capital request in Senate Bill 5701 to help deliver mass timber modular housing in Oregon's rural communities.

Sincerely,



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