



## Bear Mountain Forest Products

Oregon Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development  
Attn: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

February 10, 2014

**Subject: Hearing Testimony for SB 1578**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Bear Mountain Forest Products Inc. to express support for SB 1578, as amended, to make biomass an eligible green energy technology to meet the state's 1.5% investment requirement for new public buildings and major renovations.

Beginning in 1988 Bear Mountain has been producing wood pellet fuel in Oregon. From a one man operation in Hood River Oregon we have grown to a nearly 50 employee Company providing over 100,000 tons/year of wood pellet fuel to six Western states, heating 50,000 homes and 5 schools from our production facilities in Cascade Locks and Brownsville, Oregon.

The benefits of wood pellet heat are many. From the heating cost savings, job creation, community development and timber stand improvement to the environmental advantages locally sourced renewable biomass heat keeps the heating dollars in the community and provides a use for timber stand improvement residuals. It is efficient and the 100,000+ tons of fuel we produce offsets harmful greenhouse gas equivalents of more than 150,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over fuel oil heat, considering biomass heat is carbon neutral.

Renewable wood pellet heat is good for Oregon and should be promoted from the top down.

Please support SB 1578 to help create new green energy jobs in forest communities, keep energy dollars recirculating locally, support forest stewardship, increase our energy independence, and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Sourek  
President/CEO  
Bear Mountain Forest Products Inc.  
[bsourek@bmf.com](mailto:bsourek@bmf.com)  
503-334-1565