

City of Prineville

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February 12, 2014

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

RE: Hearing Testimony for SB 1578

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Prineville 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 building and major renovations.

In Prineville, we are researching every kind of renewable energy possible including biomass thermal energy. We are in an area that once relied heavily on the timber industry, as well as seeing our timber lands not being maintained putting them at a greater risk of fire.

Including this technology as a renewable energy alternative offers many opportunities for Prineville to offset fossil fuel, while maintaining and being responsible stewards of timber lands while accomplishing a much needed positive economic and environmental benefit for all in our community.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Roppe

City of Prineville, Mayor