



*Everywhere
Central Oregon
Works*

Testimony for Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
Hearing on SB 1578
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I coordinate forest restoration collaboratives focused on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. These groups are working to resolve past conflicts about federal forest management and forge new agreements that will sustain our forests into the future and improve our economies and quality of life in local communities.

We don't agree on everything around the collaborative table, but we are working together and working with the Forest Service to identify balanced prescriptions that reduce the risk of high severity wildfire, promote the development of ecologically important large tree structure, and produce medium and small diameter logs for value added processing. But when we implement these win-win prescriptions we also produce many tops and limbs and many very small trees that currently have little commercial value and are left in the forest. It is very expensive to dispose of this biomass and that limits the amount of acres we can get treated each year.

If we can build markets for this biomass, which will make it "disappear" from forest landings, we can save hundreds of dollars per acre on pile burning costs. These savings add up and allow us to treat more acres and reap more social, economic, and ecological benefits from forest restoration.

In Central Oregon, we have explored many potential markets for woody biomass and discovered that using it as a fuel for space and water heating in large public buildings is very economically feasible. By classifying woody biomass as an eligible green energy technology for the state's 1.5% new public building investment requirement the legislature can help solve our forest health problems and create new green energy jobs in rural forested communities.

Please support SB 1578. Thank you.