

February 19, 2014



Representative Jules Bailey, Chair
Members of the House Committee On Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Senate Bill 1578

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Bend Chamber supports Senate Bill 1578 A-Engrossed and appreciates your consideration of the diversity of our state by including woody biomass as an eligible green technology, along with solar and geothermal sources. Your support of this bill elevates the effectiveness of the 1.5% investment mandate and provides opportunities for numerous positive economic and environmental benefits throughout the state.

Given the unique attributes of each area within our state, your careful regard for the use of biomass will not only provide a new and relevant energy option, but will also build new markets for the byproducts of forest restoration while supporting forest stewardship, create a variety of jobs, and still support projects on a local level intended for public good. For these reasons, we see the passing of this bill as fortuitous for Oregon.

Chair Bailey and Members of the Committee, we request your support of Senate Bill 1578 and the opportunity to include such a prudent option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Casey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Casey
President & CEO

Cc: Senator Tim Knopp – District 27
Bcc: Sen. Ferrioli – District 30
Bcc: Rep. Gene Whisnant – District 53
Bcc: Rep. Mike McLane – District 55