

Senate Bill 1578 A

Passed unanimously through the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee/ Passed 29-1 on the Senate Floor

Save schools money, reduce air pollution, promote healthy forests, and help grow jobs in rural Oregon

As amended, this bill adds woody biomass as an eligible green energy technology to meet the State's 1.5% investment requirement for new public buildings and major renovations.

The potential community benefits of this addition include:

- Saving money on heating fuel costs in schools and other public buildings;
- Reducing carbon emissions by switching from fossil fuels;
- Re-circulating dollars in the local community and creating new jobs in woody biomass harvesting, processing, and delivery; and
- Incentivizing thinning of dense forest stands/ reducing wildfire risk

Currently, only solar and geothermal technologies are eligible to meet the 1.5% renewable energy investment requirement for public contracts. The inclusion of biomass will provide local benefits and assist in leveling the playing field for renewable technologies. The addition of woody biomass will also stimulate new economic opportunities in rural Oregon, supporting new jobs and markets that compliment State investments in forest restoration.

Supported by AOC, Sustainable Northwest, LOC, Oregon Department of Forestry, Deschutes County, and many others