

## The Association of Oregon Counties Support HB 2449

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) supports for HB 2449 which extends the sunset for the Biomass Producer or Collector Tax Credit and establishes a new production tax credit as a pilot program.

AOC believes investing in biomass development in Oregon is a “win-win” approach to several problems. HB 2449 will

- stimulate new economic investment and green job opportunities, especially in rural areas,
- increase forest health by removing small diameter logs that are currently creating problems for our undermanaged forests, and
- increase energy independence for Oregon by providing clean, home grown sources of heat and electricity.

The counties have also been actively involved in the investments the state has made in existing forest management programs. AOC believes that HB 2449 will sync well with these efforts by providing a use for forest materials with a market based mechanism. By incentivizing the collection of materials or production of biomass-based energy the ongoing restoration efforts will continue and provide jobs in the forest product sector.

AOC also appreciates that HB 2449 requires ODOE to evaluate the program and provide feedback to the legislature on a regular basis. HB 2449 is also fiscally responsible by capping the tax credits at its existing level of \$15M.

AOC strongly supports HB 2449. For more information on AOC's position please contact policy manager, Mark Nystrom ([mnystrom@aocweb.org](mailto:mnystrom@aocweb.org)/503-585-8351)