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Chair Jessica Vega Pederson  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2833

*Submitted electronically to [beth.patrino@state.or.us](mailto:beth.patrino@state.or.us)*

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee:

I have concerns about HB 2833 as currently drafted. "Woody biomass" is a broad, vague category that could allow increased emissions. It is, after all, burning carbon and will add to CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere. While collecting and burning biomass uses local sources, without tighter definitions of what types of biomass combustion are allowed and an assessment of the contribution to greenhouse gases, the bill may add to our environmentally problems rather than solving them.

Unlike solar, which ORS 279C.528 focuses on, the emissions from undefined woody biomass combustion, may lead to future costs in terms of air pollution mitigation, public health and climate change.

If the Committee is inclined to add woody biomass to the 1.5% set aside for public building, it will hopefully investigate the emissions from gathering, transporting and burning the biomass, and the future costs of mitigating the impacts from increased emissions, and add definitions and standards to the bill that insure that burning biomass will not lead to greater environmental impacts than leaving the biomass in place or using it in other non-polluting ways.

Without tighter safeguards, the bill is incomplete and should wait until these concerns are addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mark Pengilly

