



OFIC

Oregon Forest Industries Council

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TESTIMONY ON SB 752

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OREGON FOREST INDUSTRIES COUNCIL

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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The Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) is a trade association representing more than 50 Oregon forestland owners and forest products manufacturing-related firms who together own about 5 million acres of Oregon's private forestlands.

OFIC strongly supports SB 752 which recognizes the carbon neutrality of emission from biomass energy production.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states in their 4th Assessment Report (2007):

In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.

To paraphrase, forests can best mitigate climate change by keeping forestlands in forest use and managing them sustainably to produce forest products and bioenergy.

Biomass fuel is an important component of Oregon's renewable energy mix, supplying about 9% of all industrial energy consumption in Oregon. SB 752 restores and codifies Oregon's prior biomass carbon neutrality policy – in place from 2009 to 2014 – providing needed certainty for biomass energy producers. SB752 encourages renewable energy generation utilizing residuals from forest management and forest health restoration treatments, reducing wildfire risks and environmental impacts while at the same time displacing fossil fuel energy and carbon emissions and keeping Oregon energy dollars in Oregon supporting rural communities and jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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