

Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment
Attn. Representative Vega Pederson, Committee Chair

March 20, 2015

Subject: Support for HB 2988

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Bear Mountain Forest Products to express support for HB 2988, expanding Oregon's Heat Smart Program to provide wood pellet subsidies.

Bear Mountain Forest Products is a forest products company that specializes in manufacturing wood fuel pellets. With two plant locations in Oregon, we provide densified wood pellets for residential, commercial and industrial sites across Oregon and abroad that are used for thermal heating. Wood pellets are a very clean burning renewable fuel that supports the initiatives of Oregon's Heat Smart Program, in addition to supporting Oregon's forest sector and the communities that depend on it.

We support the improvement of Oregon's air quality through the reduction of fine particulate emissions coming from old, "dirty" burning wood stoves. With EPA certified wood stoves and pellet stoves being up to 10 times more efficient than uncertified wood stoves, the Heat Smart Program is an excellent opportunity to make a substantial improvement to the air quality of our communities. By adding wood pellet subsidies as part of HB 2988, it is another step towards cleaning up air quality while supporting a local, renewable energy source that signifies a high-efficiency, low air contaminant-emitting heating fuel.

The subsidies for the purchase of qualifying renewable fuels, including wood pellets, represents support of local renewable energy sources and their communities. Densified wood pellets can be up to 20 times more efficient than well-seasoned cordwood, so the subsidies for wood pellets will help jump start the Heat Smart Program so that consumers can make educated decisions on which heat source to use based on the overall benefits to the community. In addition, the increase in use of wood pellets, as a local renewable biomass energy, will create more jobs at ours and other manufacturing plants right here in Oregon.

Please support HB 2988 to help create these new jobs, keep energy dollars circulating locally, support forest stewardship, increase our energy independence, and reduce our CO₂ emissions. The framework is there with Oregon's Heat Smart Program, we just need to keep it moving forward. Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,



Levi Strayer
Bear Mountain Forest Products