



March 30, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2984: Relating to forestry product cooperatives

Clackamas County supports HB 2984: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2984, which requires Clackamas County to develop a pilot Urban Lumber Program for forest products grown on non-forest lands to be commercially produced and marketed through a forestry product cooperative.

All trees eventually come down, whether through age, disease, or storm. An urban lumber program has the potential to harness those trees to provide new economic opportunities to local mills, nurseries, landscapers, arborists, craftsmen, and municipal and private land owners.

Under HB 2984, Clackamas County will develop a model framework to demonstrate the value and benefit of an Urban Lumber Program that will provide economic benefit to local municipalities and specialty mills from the purposeful planting, managing, and harvesting of high value hardwoods that are enrolled in the program. This bill will also provide the necessary funding for Clackamas County to lead the development of the Urban Lumber Program to include the necessary policies, procedures, technical services and software system to implement, manage, market and administrate enrolled trees through a forest product cooperative. If successful, the program could be replicated in local municipalities throughout the state.

The establishment of the Urban Lumber pilot program reinforces the importance of our natural resource based economy, providing hardwoods to specialty mills while also creating new jobs and a new revenue stream for local municipalities. We urge a “yes” vote for HB 2984.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.