



March 30, 2015

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2985: Relating to forestry product cooperatives

Clackamas County supports HB 2985: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2985, which authorizes counties to establish programs for forestry products grown on non-forest lands to be commercially produced and marketed through forestry product cooperatives.

All trees eventually come down, whether through age, disease, or storm. Urban lumber 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. Currently, however, counties are not authorized to financially benefit through the utilization of these hardwoods on our urban landscapes.

HB 2985 has the potential to serve as a statewide resource to generate new revenues for our roads, schools, and other local needs. Trees enrolled in an urban lumber program would increase the livability of urban communities through efforts to reduce air pollution, capture carbon, and reduce rain runoff and water treatment costs. The trees envisioned for the urban lumber program are high value, specialty use hardwoods, which generally have a shorter life expectancy but higher receipt value than traditional timber in Oregon.

The establishment of an urban lumber authorization for local governments reinforces the importance of our renewable and natural resource based economy, and would yield new jobs for our communities and new revenues for our local municipalities. We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2985.

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