

To Whom It May Concern,

With regrets I apologize for not being able to personally be in the Transportation & Economic Development Subcommittee on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 @ 3 PM. My production schedule will not allow me to be away from my business, Joseph's Juniper, Inc. Although, please let it be known that we support both HB2997 & HB2998 regarding the juniper industry.

Joseph's Juniper, Inc. is a dual purpose company in its 5th season. Landscape friendly, range land restoration and utilization of western juniper. We are the awarded contractor for a 10 year stewardship called the "Blitzen Stewardship" on the Steens Mountains in collaboration with the Burns BLM. No "old growth" is cut.

There is a mill yard at mile marker 120 on highway 20 west of Hines, Oregon. In the peak of production we produce 6,200 board feet per day of square organic lumber products: 6"X6"X8' & 5"X5"X8' cants, raised garden beds, 2"X6"X8' decking and fencing. Various live edged counter top material, mantels, round posts from a 3" top diameter, and 6', 8', 10' (12') game fencing up to 24' and for gate entry's. Jacket or slab wood for corrals, wind breaks and firewood. Drive in business is 30% volume. In 2015 anticipated production is 40 semi loads of square and round stock and jacket wood.

We purchase logs from 3 Oregon Counties, supporting approximately 15 jobs with juniper utilization. There is a mill yard near French Glen, OR which is a collaboration with Malheur Refuge and Burns BLM. We restore 600 - 800 acres per year of encroaching western juniper with a goal of no foot print left on the landscape. In doing this, water shed is restored, hazardous fuel is removed. Native pasture, leafy shrubs, aspens, Mt. mahogany sage brush and sage grouse returns and thrives.

With your support of HB2997 and HB2998 Joseph's Juniper, Inc. has the potential to expand into a stationary mill hiring more people year round. We employ 7 family wage jobs at this time with room to grow. We have a customer base in 6 states.

Respectfully,

Gerard Joseph

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**Gerard Joseph LaBrecque**

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