



February 3, 2016

Cody Wilson, Executive

Cody@UPFP.com

503-213-2675

To: The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Chair and committee members

Dear Honorable Caddy McKeown and committee members,

I am writing in regards to OR HB4089 and why I feel that wooden pallets offer a more sustainable and environmentally friendly product when compared to corrugated cardboard pallets. As the largest wooden pallet manufacturer in Oregon I would like to offer my testimony on the soundness of wooden pallets when compared to corrugated cardboard pallets.

Outside of limited indoor environments corrugated pallets suffer from structural failure when exposed to water. When corrugated pallets are treated with wax to make them semi-water resistant they are considered garbage and are not recyclable outside of a specialized facility*. Most pallets in Oregon's supply chain are exposed to some level of moisture and in Oregon with 155 days on average of measureable precipitation this is definitely a concern.

While shipping weight of a corrugated pallet is less than a wooden pallet its recyclability, reusability and durability are not comparable to a wooden pallet. United Pacific Forest Products purchases 10 million feet of low grade lumber that is utilized as pallet stock. While corrugated pallets could be made by grinding this low grade material into small chips, this is not the end of the actual process required to produce corrugated cardboard;

"First, lumber is stripped of bark and torn into small chips. Next, these chips are placed in a large, high-pressure tank called a batch digester, where they are cooked in a solution, or liquor, made of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and several other ionic compounds such as sulfates, sulfides, and sulfites.

*These strongly alkaline chemicals dissolve the lignin, the glue-like substance that holds the individual wood fibers together in a tree trunk. When the pressure is released after several hours, the wood chips explode like popcorn into fluffy masses of fiber**."*

The process for producing pallets from lumber is far simpler and requires less energy and time while not requiring any chemicals. We cut the lumber, nail the pieces together and recycle any leftover lumber. In addition to producing new pallets we repair pallets to give them 8-10 additional life cycles as a usable product. At the end of their life cycle they are ground into hog fuel and the metal is separated. This makes the wooden pallet and the products used to produce them, 100% recyclable and reusable. Corrugated pallets cannot make this claim.



United Pacific Forest Products

We invite you to tour any of our facilities so that we can show you the sustainability of the wooden pallet industry.

We appreciate your consideration and hope that this will help with your consideration when considering OR HB4089.

Kind Regards,

Cody Wilson, Executive

United Pacific Forest Products

* Portland Metro Recycling

** <http://www.madehow.com/Volume-1/Corrugated-Cardboard.html>