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P.O. Box 276 / Lyons, Oregon 97358  
503-859-2121  
Fax 503-859-2112

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Freres Lumber Co., Inc. Testimony to House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development.

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Robert Freres Jr., I am executive vice president of Freres Lumber Co., Inc. located 30 miles east of here in Lyons, Oregon. We employ 480 people manufacturing wood products and by products used for paper and cardboard. Our lumber is heat treated for shipment overseas as crating and pallet stock. This is necessary to avoid invasive species from entering countries around the globe. Our plywood products are used for crating, packaging and pallets also.

Plywood has lost 90% of its residential market share to a cheaper substitute known as oriented strand board. Plywood's characteristics lend its use heavily into industrial, commercial and agricultural markets.

This bill today is a market disrupter at a time when the US manufacturing index has hit its lowest mark since 2009.

In 2007 we began the operation of a wood fired co-generation facility producing steam for our plant processes and renewable electricity to power 7000 homes on the grid. We purchase ground up pallet stock as clean boiler fuel for this plant and this bill today would jeopardize the continued operation of the co-gen plant if fewer wooden pallets are recycled and eventually used as fuel.

There is an appropriate place for corrugated and wood packaging.

HB 4089 creates many questions and uncertain consequences.

This 35 day legislative session is just too short to vet HB 4089 and we ask that it be set aside until it receives the proper scrutiny.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Robert Freres Jr.  
Freres Lumber Co., Inc.  
Evergreen Bio Power LLC