

## House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

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Testimony of:

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Good Morning Chair Lininger, Vice-Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Johnson, and I am a co-owner along with my sister, Jodi Westbrooks, of both D.R. Johnson Lumber Company and D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations. Our parents founded the lumber company in 1951 in Riddle, in south Douglas County, and constructed our glu-lam beam plant in 1967, formerly known as Riddle Laminators and now known as D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations. When our expansion to manufacture mass wood panels in the glu-lam plant was completed in 2015 we became the first certified manufacturer of structural cross-laminated timbers, or CLT's, in the United States and only the third certified company in North America. I am pleased to participate on this panel to testify as to the benefits of the Frameworks Project and how it relates to both to the economic growth of our company and of our community, as well as the developing urban-rural connection we witness and sense growing stronger every day.

*Slide 1 – Description of the Wood Innovations plant.*

- *The Frameworks project has undertaken extensive engineering to prove the safest and most resilient building system using our Mass Timber components—both glu-lam beams and CLT panels to be pre-fabricated with our CNC machine.*

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*Slide 2 – Examples of the ability of our robotic CNC machine to ship precisely fabricated beams and panels and new employee positions.*

- *This new Mass Timber building system is creating new positions in our company to do the computer modeling and robotic fabrication, as well as the logistical challenges of precise storing and shipping the materials to be used directly off the flat bed truck at the destination of the job site.*
- *The research done by the Frameworks team is helping to create a process for these challenges that we expect to use many years in the future.*
- *This additional product line has added approx 11-12 positions, and we expect that shortly after we are running at full capacity on one shift we will add a second shift, probably within the coming twelve months. The total increased employees at that*

*time will be 20-22 positions. The Frameworks Project will be one of the key reasons for this additional demand for our products and the addition of the new jobs.*

*Slide 3 - Testing. These are just a very small sample of the testing that has been necessary and/or desirable to prove the safety and resiliency of Mass Timber Construction. Many of the testing projects we have done to build confidence in this building system have been in collaboration with the Frameworks Project.*

*Slide 4 - Urban/Rural Connection. This was a graphic done by a reporter for The Oregonian in late 2015. While it may now be somewhat dated, it is also likely under reporting the number of construction projects in the Portland Metro market in 2017.*

- *It is a significant source of pride for our employees to know that they are manufacturing products that will be used for construction in urban areas. The pride is not only because of the beauty of our product, but knowing that we are partnering with design/build teams like the Framework Project to provide a more environmentally friendly, lower carbon emitting, renewable and sustainable product for the increasing demand in urban areas. The urban/rural divide has existed too long in Oregon. Our people are now feeling proud of their work once again, and beginning to believe that perhaps urban areas will respect what we do as well.*

*Slide 5 – Oregon State University College of Forestry. The Peavy Hall re-build on the campus at OSU College of Forestry is another example of the innovation and collaboration that the Frameworks Project is creating. Much of the testing and engineering work for Frameworks will be used in future projects, such as Peavy Hall.*

*Slide 6 – College students are eager to learn and participate in this new Mass Timber Construction revival.*

- *We estimate that we have hosted several hundred visitors through our plant within the last 2-1/2 years, and at least 150 of those visitors have been college students and faculty.*
- *This Mass Timber movement is for real. It is growing more every month. The next generation feels it and is eager to be a part of it.*
- *This not only continues to strengthen the cross education and respect between the urban, suburban and rural areas of our state, it strengthens a new generation of respect for one another.*

Chair Lininger, Vice-Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee, we at D.R. Johnson thank you for your interest in this nationally significant 12 storey project called Frameworks. We believe our efforts and your support of this Project that is literally a laboratory for the revival of building with Mass Timber is an investment for which Oregonians will be grateful for many, many generations to come. Thank you for your time.