



**OREGON FOREST & INDUSTRIES COUNCIL**  
SUSTAINABILITY. SCIENCE. INNOVATION. GROWTH.



April 12, 2017

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
H-178, State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Nathanson:

We are writing to express our support for the approximately \$3.55 million in funding included in the Governor's Recommended Budget to continue the work of the Center for Advanced Wood Products (now called the TallWood Design Institute).

Launched three years ago, the Institute brings together a one-of-a-kind collaboration between leading architecture, wood science, and engineering programs at both Oregon State University and University of Oregon to focus on development of innovative wood products and building components produced in Oregon. We can attest to the fact that the Institute actively partners with Oregon building design professionals and wood products manufacturers to drive innovation and provide testing for engineered wood materials, aiding Oregon to become the US leader in emerging domestic and global markets for mass timber products and buildings.

In the last biennium, state funding was doubled through a combination of federal and private matching funds secured by the Institute. All of the matching funds were exclusively dedicated to providing research, testing, and educational programs that are critical in establishing Oregon's reputation for

sustainable design, and positioning the state to supply emerging domestic and global markets for new wood products. The Institute's work is helping to increase the value of Oregon's forests in supporting sustainable management, growing the number of manufacturing jobs in our rural communities, and solidifying our State's stature as a worldwide leader in innovative design of sustainable buildings.

As architects, wood products businesses, private and public associations, local governments, and nonprofit public interest organizations, we share a collective interest in establishing Oregon as the North American "hub" for innovative and sustainable building design and the manufacturing of engineered wood products that will be used in these buildings. The TallWood Design Institute is a critical contributor to achieving this vision. In the last two years alone, the Institute has launched over \$2 million in industry-focused applied research projects supporting growth of the wood products sector, and has conducted vital testing work to enable CLT and other engineered wood products to be used in pioneering building projects here in Oregon. In addition, the Institute has worked with designers and local governments to investigate new approaches to integrating wood building components in planned projects, and partnered with Oregon wood products companies to develop and test new products that will be going into commercial production next year.

Oregon is fortunate to have so many entrepreneurs, innovators, and practitioners who are passionate about revitalizing our timber-dependent communities by growing markets for sustainable wood buildings. This one-of-a-kind collaboration between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University is essential to realizing this strategic opportunity for our state. Please support the continued funding proposed in the Governor's budget.

Sincerely,

Grady Mulberry, President & CEO  
**Roseburg Forest Products**

Bill Hall, President  
**Association of Oregon Counties**

Lucy Vinis, Mayor  
**City of Eugene**

Greg Block, President  
**Sustainable Northwest**

Valerie Johnson, President  
**D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations**

Kent Duffy, Principal  
**SRG Partnership, Inc.**

Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director  
**Wallowa Resources**

Thomas Robinson, Founder  
**Lever Architecture**

Christine L. Lundberg, Mayor  
**City of Springfield**

Kristina McNitt, President  
**Oregon Forests & Industries Council**

Tyler Freres, Vice President  
**Freres Lumber Co., Inc.**

Sid Leiken, Commissioner  
**Lane County**

Brent Davies, Vice President  
**Ecotrust**