

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
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Testimony of Valerie Johnson, President
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Good morning Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and Members of the Committee,

My name is Valerie Johnson. My sister, Jodi Westbrook and I are co-owners of D.R. Johnson Lumber Company founded by our parents in 1951, 66 years ago. We are also co-owners of our engineered wood company formerly known as Riddle Laminators, now re-named D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations, which was founded in 1967 and is now celebrating our 50th year of operation. Both companies are in Riddle, Oregon, in south Douglas County.

In 2015 when we expanded our glu-lam plant and added the capacity to manufacture mass wood panels 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. Since then we have added 14 full time, full benefits, family wage jobs.

We have manufactured and shipped beams and CLT's for numerous small and mid-sized jobs to five different states. We now have a contract with the design/build team for Oregon State University's College of Forestry to provide CLT's and glulams for the re-build of Peavy Hall, a three story building.

Additionally, we have a contract with a high-tech company in California to provide 350,000 sq. ft. of CLT's, and we are working closely with the design/build team on the 12-story Framework project in NW Portland, which will be the tallest building in the United States built entirely with wood. Even more encouraging, interest, inquires and commitments are coming in weekly—many of them for mid-rise, four to six story projects.

All of this activity means we will need to ramp up production in the very near future. Additional production capacity will mean hiring more skilled employees. When we add a second shift in mid to late summer this year, we will have another 10-12 full time, family wage jobs to fill, providing a boost to the economy of our rural community.

However, it is imperative that there is a clear understanding that an adequate and dependable log supply to the sawmills that manufacture the lumber we need to make our glulams and CLT's is essential for this revival of building with mass timber to succeed. The sustained yield harvest from O & C lands is a critical piece of that log supply.

We at D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations are experiencing a phenomenal interest in the market place to build smarter, greener and more sustainably with wood. We are also certain there will be other companies investing in this promising market for advanced engineered wood products in the near future. The future is bright, but a sufficient supply of logs must be secure.

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and Members of the Committee, we at D.R. Johnson Wood Innovations urge you to vote today to pass this bill. The livelihoods of our employees and the growth of the economies of our rural communities depend on it.

Thank you very much.