



February 12, 2018

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
HB 4109: Relating to Carbon Sequestration**

**Clackamas County supports HB 4109:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 4109, which directs state agencies to study opportunities to promote carbon sequestration.

Clackamas County supports carbon sequestration activities that would help to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions and benefit local economies. Thoughtful consideration and management of Oregon's greatest renewable resource – our forests – is an essential component in this work. Effective forest management practices reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires that devastate communities and lead to the release of greenhouse gases. In addition, by harvesting these renewable resources, where appropriate, we can permanently sequester carbon.

New mass timber technologies, such as cross laminated timber (CLT), are increasingly replacing more carbon intensive building construction materials. These wood innovations hold immense potential in efforts to address climate change, while at the same benefiting rural economies.

Clackamas County is actively working on ways to address the supply needs of the burgeoning CLT industry. Today, the wood for mass timber construction in Oregon and nationally is primarily being sourced from out of state. Working with a diverse array of stakeholders, Clackamas County is pursuing a “forest to frame” concept with an aim of supporting local businesses and local communities. If successful, the results of the pilot could serve as a model for the state.

As work continues on developing a cap & trade system for Oregon, HB 4109 will provide useful information to policymakers on ways to incorporate carbon sequestration into such a program. This work represents a potential win-win to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also positioning Oregon as a national leader in wood innovation.

We urge a “YES” vote for HB 4109.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.