



Northwest Pulp & Paper  
ASSOCIATION

February 12, 2018

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court ST NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

***Senate Bill 1541– In Support***

Chair Dembrow and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity for Northwest Pulp & Paper Association (NWPPA) to provide testimony on SB 1541. On behalf of NWPPA, we'd like to share with the committee: a brief background of NWPPA, our work as a member of the Cleaner Air Oregon Rules Advisory Committee and our perspectives on why SB 1541's legislative oversight is needed.

**Background**

NWPPA is a 61 year-old regional trade association representing 12 member companies and 14 pulp and paper mills in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Five of those NWPPA member mills are located in Oregon. We also represent mills across Oregon in the solid wood sector. As one of the members of Oregon's forest products sector (including private forest lands, public forest management, logging, manufacturing, wholesaling and transportation), pulp and paper mills help contribute approximately 4,482 jobs of the 20,244 primary forest products manufacturing job included in Oregon's 61,000 total forestry sector jobs (State of Oregon Employment Department 2015 data).<sup>1 2</sup> Also Oregon's 2015 data shows almost 51,000 of the 61,000 forest-sector jobs were found in the private sector.

Many NWPPA members are located in economically stressed rural communities, these family-wage manufacturing jobs help sustain the local economy, with an accepted industry multiplier effect of three to five jobs, approximately 20,000 workers are supported by this sector of our economy. For example in two counties with pulp and paper mills, the forestry sector average wages are around double the average county wages. The Oregon Employment Department explains that in 2015, "In Lincoln County, the average annual forest sector wage (\$71,200) was

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.qualityinfo.org/-/oregon-s-forest-sector-employment-totals-61-000-in-2015>

<sup>2</sup> [http://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/OFRI\\_FactsFacts\\_1718\\_WEB.pdf](http://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/OFRI_FactsFacts_1718_WEB.pdf)

double that of all jobs (\$35,300). Forest-related jobs also paid nearly double the all-job average in Clatsop County (\$68,200 and \$35,100, respectively).”<sup>1</sup>

NWPPA shares your goal of improving Oregon’s air quality and striking that balance of improved controls under the proposed Cleaner Air Oregon and a vibrant manufacturing economy providing family-wage jobs across Oregon.

### **Cleaner Air Oregon Rules Advisory Committee Process**

On behalf of NWPPA, I have participated in DEQ advisory committees for over two decades. Based on my experience I was selected as a Committee member representing large business on the Rules Advisory Committee. I provided regular input for our NWPPA members and the larger business community. NWPPA also provided robust rule-making comments on the proposed Cleaner Air Oregon rules.

It was a complex process. We believe that there are still some key areas that need policy oversight for such a large, unique program state-based program. We ask that you consider adding policy direction for the program.

### **SB 1541 Benefits**

We believe SB 1541 would provide legislative oversight on policy issues for the proposed state-based Cleaner Air Oregon program. SB 1541 would:

- Allow Oregon’s legislative branch to take on the role of considering and setting new statewide policies, not the executive branch.
- Allow legislators to pause and consider and balance public policies issues that are *clearly policy choices* in a state-based program like risk levels.
- Allow legislators to consider the unique mix of Oregon businesses and industries and rural-based geography when developing a new program that only applies to Oregon businesses.
- Allow legislators to consider the initial size and implementation timeline of the program and set fees to match their legislative intent.

For these reasons, NWPPA supports SB 1541 and we ask that you pass the bill from your committee. I can be contacted at 503-805-8511 to answer any questions.

Kathryn VanNatta  
Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs  
Northwest Pulp & Paper Association