



February 14, 2018

Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Legislative Leaders,

We write in support of capital investments that will advance the adoption of Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), Mass Plywood Panels (MPP), and other Oregon advanced wood products in the construction marketplace.

The projects proposed at Eastern Oregon University, Oregon State University’s Cascades campus, and the University of Oregon all incorporate CLT or other advanced wood products into their design and construction. As a result, they demonstrate the viability and new applications of innovative homegrown technologies developed and manufactured in Oregon’s own backyard.

Investing in these high profile demonstrations of mass timber and other engineered wood products will create construction and manufacturing jobs in rural communities and bolster an industry as it works to gain widespread adoption across the United States. Creating a portfolio of successful projects is critical to educating engineers, architects, general contractors, and construction trades about the use and potential of CLT and MPP.

These investments will be critical to the ongoing economic recovery of rural Oregon, which has experienced a large loss of timber industry jobs in recent decades that created vulnerability for its economic base. The fact is, most rural counties still have fewer jobs today than they did ten years ago, and 20 of Oregon’s 36 counties have yet to recover from the Great Recession.

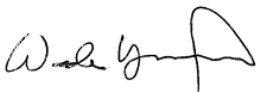
With the development of innovative advanced wood products manufacturing technologies like CLT and MPP, the future looks favorable for a healthy forest products sector —keeping Oregon the nation-leading structural wood producer and forestry manager in America.

Officials with the State of Oregon have shown a keen interest in ramping up manufacturing of advanced wood products to support the state’s timber towns. Oregon is at the forefront of a growing movement in the U.S. to construct more buildings with innovative mass timber wood products like CLT and MPP

By opening up the potential to build more commercial and multifamily buildings with a locally grown, renewable resource, the mass timber construction movement is helping to create and sustain wood products manufacturing jobs in struggling rural communities. In order to maintain this cutting-edge position in the marketplace, lawmakers must continue to invest. Using the state’s purchasing power, we can demonstrate to the world that CLT, MPP, and other Oregon wood products are viable in a variety of settings.

We urge your support for this capital package. Please take this opportunity to invest in an industry that has served as a bedrock of Oregon’s traded sector economy for generations, and has suffered disproportionately in the last several decades.

Sincerely,



Wade Younie
DCI Engineers



Tyler Freres
Freres Lumber Co., Inc.



Robert J. Bass
Hancock Forest Management



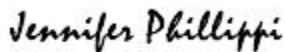
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