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URBAN LUMBER | LIVE EDGE SLABS | CUSTOM FURNITURE

Testimony of David Barmon
Co-owner of Epilogue LLC
RE: HB 202, Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
March 1st, 2019

Co-chairs Dembrow and Bentz as well as members of the committee, thank you for your time and efforts working on important, complicated legislation such as House Bill 2020!

My name is David Barmon. I am a resident of Portland Oregon and co-own Fiddlehead llc, a landscape construction company and Epilogue llc a small sawmill operation that mills urban trees into dimensional hardwood lumber and speciality wood products.

I am in strong support of HB 2020, although I do believe it may have negative consequences for many of my fellow Oregonians working in natural resource and related industries. Please continue to consider how the final legislation impacts those communities, often in rural Oregon.

we need a dedicated percentage of program revenue to go to our forest + farms
Every year across the US, four billion board feet of potential lumber from *+ natural* urban tree removals is cut up as firewood, mulched or taken to the landfill. *resource businesses*
This happens because there are no plans for wood utilization in urban forestry. Why? Every tree in every city will die at some point and need to be removed. In short, it is a broken system where the tree canopy shrinks every year and costs landowners including municipalities billion of dollars to destroy massive quantities of wood. If we plan for the future with urban lumber in mind, we can turn the problem into the solution. After all, if we can grow food in the city, why not grow lumber in the city?

In 2015 I worked with former Rep. Julie Parrish to pass House Bill 2984 which funded an urban lumber feasibility study in Clackamas County. The goal of the project was to determine the economic and environmental benefits of having a more holistic urban forestry system where trees could be planted to increase the urban canopy, providing environmental and public health benefits as well as product high quality wood products in the future. At the time, it appeared that without some start up funding, it would be challenging to expect landowners to invest money for new trees.

In the last few years, urban forestry carbon offset programs, such as City Forest Credits are making it possible to incentivize planting new trees. Trees as everyone knows, help fight climate change!

I would ask that HB 2020 add some language in Section 68 to include support for urban forestry carbon offset programs as well as urban lumber programs carbon offset programs.

Finally, I would add that planting and growing trees not only improves the environment but also creates economic activity for a variety of sectors including the nursery, forestry, trucking and transportation as well as construction industry. Imagine if all the grassy medians along the freeway grew mixed species forests for CLT buildings and high quality furniture. In a way that increased the tree canopy and didn't require clear cutting.

Thank you for your time!

David Barmon, co owner
Epilogue llc
Fiddlehead llc