

4/20/21

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment;

For the record, my name is Mike Sullivan. I am the Political Director of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW). AWPPW is opposed to HB-2395. It is our belief that Columbia Pulp patent on non-wood fiber production would eliminate mills, which would cost the loss of jobs of workers that we represent in Oregon, especially International Paper (IP) located in Springfield Oregon. Our other concern is that this patent of Columbia Pulp would create a closed market and would ultimately drive the prices up.

All customers should be asked if they want paper or plastic. Paper from wood fibers should be the first choice as paper from wood fibers is still the safest material to fight against COVID-19 and is still the best way to recycle.

Perhaps a more pressing concern is the use of wheat straw in the process of paper making that Phil Harding of Willamette Falls Paper Company states in his testimony of 2/10/21. Bags made with wheat byproducts **may be harmful to Gluten Intolerant people, and even more so to those with Celiac Disease.**

Thank you for allowing me to make testimony in opposition to HB-2395.

Mike Sullivan

Oregon Political Director

AWPPW