



February 3, 2022

Chair Jeff Golden
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted via OLIS

Re: Sierra Pacific Industries – Seneca Support of SB 1501 and SB 1502

Chair Golden and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Todd Payne, and I am the President and General Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) Lumber Business and the Oregon Forest and Industries Council Board Chair. Until SPI's acquisition of Seneca in Fall 2021, I held the position of CEO and President of Seneca, a signatory to the Private Forest Accord.

Sierra Pacific Industries is in strong support of SB 1501 and SB 1502, the technical and enabling legislation for the Private Forest Accord (PFA) and associated tax credit for small forest landowners. I want to thank you for the continued time you are taking to understand the PFA so you may take action to enact the legislation so critical to implementing this historic agreement.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third generation, family-owned forest products company. We are a leader in the manufacture of lumber, millwork and wood windows and the owner of over 2.3 million acres of forestland across the West Coast. With the 2021 purchase of Oregon-based Seneca companies, we are proud to now operate in rural and urban Oregon communities.

Our Oregon operations include four sawmills, a veneer plant, a biomass energy plant, and over 177,000 acres of sustainably managed timberlands primarily in Douglas and Lane counties – all managed and operated by our hard working and highly skilled crew members. Across these operations, SPI directly supports approximately 500 Oregon families with nearly \$58 million in annual wages circulating locally throughout our rural and urban communities.

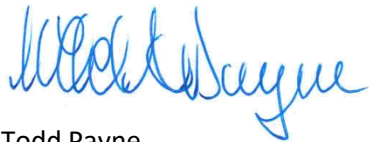
SPI is proud that the by-product of our manufacturing operations is used at our state-of-the-art cogeneration facility, providing enough renewable energy to power over 14,000 homes in Lane County. We know that our experienced foresters and professional staff take their role as technical experts and generational stewards of our timberlands of the utmost seriousness, knowing that our investments today are critical to the longevity and sustainability of surrounding communities and industry for generations to come. We truly think of sustainability broadly; in how we harvest and grow trees, manufacture product, and support families and communities.

The tenants reached in the Private Forest Accord (PFA) align well with SPI's commitment to responsible forest stewardship, maintaining of important wildlife habitat for salmon and providing good jobs. The PFA is more than a commitment of Oregon's forest landowners to implement forest management practices that will help conserve and protect fish habitat. This agreement reinforces what we already knew: Species conservation and sustainable forest management – combined with sound science – go hand-in-hand.

Compromise is never easy. The PFA's increased protections for fish and slope stability reflect economic sacrifices by landowners, sawmills, the small, family-owned forest sector businesses and the rural communities dependent on these working forests. But we also know that this PFA and the collaborative work to get here is unique and historic and balances increased environmental regulations while ensuring long-term family-wage jobs for rural communities, allowing the forest products sector to continue to be a cornerstone economic industry in Oregon.

We thank you for your careful consideration and strongly request your passage of SB 1501 and 1502.

Sincerely,



Todd Payne
President and General Manager
Sierra Pacific Industries, Lumber Business