

Submitter: Mark Elston  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB4053

My name is Mark Elston and I manage the Hampton Lumber sawmill in Tillamook, Oregon. I am writing today in strong support of HB4053.

Hampton Lumber—a fourth-generation, family-owned company—has operated sawmills in Oregon for 80 years. We purchased our manufacturing facility in Tillamook in 1986 and today the mill includes a team of roughly 175 employees. We have capacity to produce 240 million board feet of lumber annually, enough to frame 20,000 single-family homes. Along with our friends and neighbors in the agricultural sector, we depend on Highway 6, also known as the Wilson River Highway, to move wood products from the forest to the mill to markets in the Willamette Valley and beyond.

Improvements to this highway are desperately needed to ensure our communities are resilient and well-connected to important markets. The poor condition of this highway creates economic losses for coastal businesses like ours and presents a significant threat to public safety. Slides regularly close this vital stretch of highway and the surface conditions and lack of adequate turnouts increases accident rates. The work proposed in HB4053 is a much needed first step in addressing these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Elston  
Hampton Lumber - Tillamook