

Submitter: KEVIN MCELWEE

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

Chair Golden and members of the Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to submit opposition testimony on SB 1534. Our forests are one of the greatest solutions to climate change – and Oregon is one of the best places in the world to grow trees. It's why Oregon is the national leader in production of carbon-storing building materials.

But I'm concerned that some of the definitions in SB 1534 fall short of maximizing our forests' potential to contribute to climate change mitigation. The bill shortchanges the long-term carbon storage benefits of building with wood products in favor of policy that would reduce timber harvests. Our population is going to continue to grow, and we will need structures in which to live and work. Don't short-sell Oregon's position as a leader in providing in-demand wood products and off-shore that supply to countries with weak environmental protections, or worse, replace it with carbon intensive building products like concrete and steel.

It sounds like this bill has been developed without the input of experts. This bill needs considerable work with professional foresters and wood products specialists who can help get this right.

There's no reason to pass this bill in the short session. Please slow down and take the time to hear from experts in the field and bring an improved version of this bill back in the future when it's ready.

Thank you.

Kevin S. McElwee
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Professional Forester