

Submitter: Mari Harpur

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. This is an opportunity we should not rush. Other countries like New Zealand have been involved with carbon for a decade. That can provide valuable knowledge for our own Oregon grown carbon. Do not sell the rest of the world's knowledge short. We are in this together and so are our forests. Reach out and take this opportunity to do this right. Be the USA leader to develop good sound policy.

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.

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 when us growers can accept the legislation.

From a Woman who owns and loves forests,

Thank you.

Mari Harpur