



AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL

February 17, 2022

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The American Wood Council (AWC) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on HB 4139 Requiring the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by means of replacing or substituting certain materials used in constructing or maintaining the state transportation system with other materials that enable greenhouse gas emission reductions, or by means of other appropriate measures.

AWC is the voice of North American wood products manufacturing, an industry that provides over 450,000 men and women in the United States with family-wage jobs. AWC represent 86 percent of the structural wood products industry. Our members make products that are essential to everyday life that are derived from a renewable resource that absorbs and sequesters carbon for many decades. Our staff experts develop state-of-the-art engineering data, technology, and standards for wood products to ensure their safe and efficient design, as well as provide information on wood design, green building, and environmental regulations. AWC also advocates for balanced government policies that affect wood products.

The American Wood Council recognizes the importance of taking thoughtful steps toward decarbonizing the built environment. We recognize that the built environment accounts for nearly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Wood products are a right now solution: a product both low in embodied carbon and high in stored carbon. Wood products are an elegant solution to many of the climate challenges the building sector currently faces. AWC is investing significantly in ensuring there is robust and reliable data available pertaining to the embodied emissions of and stored carbon in our products.

We are not, however, in favor HB 4139. While Buy Clean legislation is an important part of addressing climate change, the most effective legislation will necessarily come from collaboration. We are not aware of nor were we involved in any stakeholder work that meaningfully involved the industries impacted by this bill. The bill creates a "Technical Advisory Committee;" this committee should be charged not with implementing a bill that has not had sufficient stakeholder outreach, but in developing a Buy Clean program that both industry and environmental advocates can come together to support. We ask that you not support HB 4139.

We hope for an opportunity to work together on a piece of legislation that is both feasible and the result of an informed, collaborative process. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
Rachael Jamison
Vice President, Markets & Sustainability