



**Eastern Oregon Counties Association**

1106 K Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 786-8799

Co-Chairs Helm & Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Paul Anderes, I am a Union County commissioner and also, I serve as the Chair of Eastern Oregon Counties Association (representing 16 counties East of the Cascades and a population base over 500,000), and I am here today to express my strong support for Oregon Senate Bill 1061 This legislation has been and will continues to be a priority of EOCA.

This bill represents an important step forward in promoting sustainable forestry practices, supporting local economies, and addressing critical housing needs in our state. With certification and requiring a recertification process, the program would maintain high standards for lumber quality and safety.

The value of this bill is multifaceted. First, it directly benefits Oregon's small-scale timber operators, empowering them to mill much of which is from small acreage that are not economically feasible and often salvage. This creates new economic opportunities in rural areas while promoting sustainable forest management practices. By allowing qualified individuals to utilize timber resources efficiently, SB 1061 reduces waste and strengthens Oregon's local economy. Second, this bill addresses our state's urgent need for affordable housing. Finally, SB 1061 aligns with Oregon's commitment to environmental stewardship. By encouraging the use of locally sourced materials, the bill reduces the environmental impact associated with transporting lumber from distant suppliers such as Canada.

This legislation reminds me of Oregon in the 1980s. Craft brewing was just getting started. There were many changes in laws, rules & regulations needed. Look where we are today, we would all be drinking Budweiser if not for bold and visionary legislation. In conclusion, SB 1061 offers a practical, effective solution that benefits Oregon's timber industry, housing market, and environmental objectives

Sincerely,

Paul Anderes, Union County Commissioner & Co-Chair of EOCA