

698 12<sup>th</sup> Street SE • Salem, OR, 97301

March 25, 2021

Management Labor Advisory Committee  
Oregon OSHA  
360 Winter St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 801-1/802-1

Co-Chairs Winther and Wood,

As a self-insured entity in Oregon, Weyerhaeuser is very concerned about the potential impacts of SBs 801-1 and 802-1. We urge you to reject both bills.

Both bills make dramatic shifts to the Oregon Workers' Compensation system, and would likely eliminate self-insured employers' ability to conduct their own claim processing. SB 801 would require self-insured employers to turn claims over to SAIF Corporation for processing, and SB 802 creates a presumption that allows workers to file claims for secondary effects of COVID-19 for thirty years following the end of the pandemic.

Under current law, self-insured entities are required to follow the same regulations as other insurance companies, so their employees are protected in the same way that other employees are covered under other policies. Through self-insurance, Weyerhaeuser is able to provide better, more tailored coverage to our employees.

SB 802 is of similar concern. The bill shifts the burden of proof from claimant to employer, and it extends liability for COVID claims to thirty years. This is unnecessary. Under current law, if an employee has filed a workers' compensation claim for COVID-19, any secondary effects that they experience are already covered by workers' compensation. Once a claim is accepted, any future illness related to the claim is covered. There is no need to create a special law for secondary effects of COVID-19, as these secondary effects are already covered.

Regards,

/s/ Betsy Earls  
Manager, Oregon Public Affairs