



September 4, 2019

Chair Imeson, State Forester Daugherty, members of the Board, for the record, my name is Taylor Lucey and I am the Director of Manufacturing and Resources for the Oregon Forest and Industries Council. This is my first time in front of this Board, and though I have met a couple of you individually, I thought I would take a moment to introduce myself for the other Board members.

A little bit of background about myself: prior to working for OFIC, I earned a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master of Science in Forest Ecosystems and Society from Oregon State University, where I examined subsistence forest food collection in West Africa. I also worked for the Forest Service in Alaska as a forestry technician, as a field technician for Harvard University's research forest, and as an agroforestry Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Senegal for over two years.

In my short tenure at OFIC, I have been taking a deep dive into the world of forest carbon, including an extensive study of the literature, participation on several committees, and hours of valuable conversations with colleagues and experts in the field. I also attended the U.S. Climate Alliance meeting last July in Washington D.C. and have been a stakeholder on the Department's Forest Carbon Advisory Committee. Like many other interested parties, I have been closely following the ups and downs of state carbon policy. Though I would not consider myself a climate science expert, the hours I have spent reading, learning, and discussing this topic have been invaluable. Additionally, I have been working with our members on the complex, important issue of the role of northwest forests in the face of climate change.

Oregon is in the unique position of being the number one softwood lumber producer in the country, while also maintaining a net carbon sink across all forestlands, according to the draft forest carbon report included in today's meeting materials. These two facts leave the Department and the Board with the exciting challenge of considering a holistic balance between storing carbon in the forests *and* in forest products, while also managing for other ecosystem benefits such as clean water and wildlife habitat. This is an important topic for the Board going forward

and we are excited to engage in whatever ways we may be helpful. We feel lucky to work in forestry because not only does it provide social and economic benefits, but forestry also serves as a tool to mitigate climate change through forest management reducing wildfire risk, produces carbon storage in wood products, and sequesters carbon in forests. As a state, Oregon is already a leader in energy efficiency and renewables (ranked 7th in the nation and 4th in the nation respectively), according to the Oregon Department of Energy’s 2018 Biennial Energy Report, which means that in addition to Oregon being an ideal place to grow trees, it is also a great place for forest products to be manufactured. We are committed to being good stewards of the forest and committed to continuing to plant, grow, and harvest locally grown, sustainable products that are manufactured in Oregon.

Thank you for inviting OFIC and the other stakeholders to the table as part of the forest carbon advisory committee and for taking the future of Oregon’s forests seriously. We are encouraged by the Department’s balanced approach to addressing forest carbon stock and flux through the work of FIA, and we look forward to the results of the harvested wood products study. We hope to be a resource for the Department and the Board throughout this process and others in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment about the forest carbon report.



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