



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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January 11, 2022

Dear U.S. Forest Service Review Committee,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners supports HomeWork Developments' proposal to the U.S. Forest Service, "**Milwaukie Cluster Housing Project (MCHP)**." This proposal is seeking to develop 30 units, single-family "pocket neighborhood" style cluster workforce housing as a demonstration project that highlights the use of panelized mass timber for affordable, healthy and resilient 'missing middle' housing. The proposal utilizes Freres Lumber Co.'s unique mass plywood panels (MPP) through new digital panelized fabrication and construction techniques. MPP is a new veneer-based mass timber product developed with technical support from the TallWood Design Institute (TDI) that received APA certification in 2018. It has the potential to achieve the structural attributes of cross-laminated timber (CLT); however, with 20% less wood and due to its use of veneers, capable of being made from logs with diameters as small as 5" harvested from suppressed second growth forests.

The goal of this project is to scale exponentially and increase the demand for mass timber in small- and mid-scale residential projects, which can facilitate sustainable, risk-mitigating forest management strategies in the Pacific Northwest. In fact, Freres was recently the 8th largest purchaser of Forest Service wood by volume in the region, consuming 60% of their timber from public lands.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners supports projects that demonstrate the feasibility of panelized mass timber as a method for the construction of affordable housing. We also support the development of the mass timber industry as a vehicle to infuse local (including rural) economies with family wage jobs. This demonstration project represents the type of investment required to move this technology and industry forward.

The efforts of the University of Oregon and Oregon State University in the TallWood Design Institute has increased the manufacture and application of wood products. This project will continue to expand this work and we enthusiastically support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala
Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners