Behind the Wood First Initiative

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Outline

- Wood First Legislative Actions
- Background on FSC vs SFI
- USGBC and Green Building
- State by State
- Industry Advocacy & Talking Points
So why should you care?

- Legislate wood as material of choice
- Positioned to meet environmental goals of legislators
- Pitting one industry against another
- Relaxing codes to favor wood

3 Forms of Wood First Legislation
Forest Products = Local Economy = Jobs = Voter Satisfaction

Wood Advantage in Codes
- New definitions of some use groups and types of construction (e.g., Type III)
- Allowing sprinklered buildings with NFPA 13 systems to contain one additional story, and to be increased in height 20 feet
- Permiting fire walls of combustible material in a Type V building
- Allowing the area for single-story buildings that are sprinklered to be increased to 300 percent
- Permiting asymmetric testing for fire resistance rating (testing from the inside only) where the distance to the property line is at least five feet
The purpose of this Act is to facilitate a culture of wood by requiring the use of wood as the primary building material in all new provincially funded buildings, in a manner consistent with the British Columbia Building Code.

- (a) recommend best practices for the use of wood in provincially funded buildings in a manner consistent with the British Columbia Building Code;
- (b) advise on the form and content of agreements and other arrangements for the design or construction of provincially funded buildings;
- (c) carry out prescribed responsibilities.
Quattro3 - Tien Sher Group
2010

SFI vs FSC
Sustainable Forestry Initiative vs Forest Stewardship Council
FSC

- Never harvests more than what grows back
- Protects biodiversity + endangered species
- Saves rare ancient trees
- Supports the local people
- Uses narrow skidding trails so as not to disrupt the rest of the forest
- Prohibits replacement by tree plantations
- Bans toxic chemicals
- Bans genetically modified trees (no GMO)
- FSC’s audit results are made public and can be appealed

SFI

- Allows large clearcuts
- Allows logging close to rivers and streams that harms water supplies
- Allows “prudent” use of toxic pesticides
- Allows conversion of old-growth forests to tree plantations
- Allows use of genetically modified trees
- SFI’s audit results are private and cannot be appealed
Green Building Adoption

Location of State-Level Green Building Policies or Legislation
January 2006–October 2010

US Green Building Council

- LEED 2.0-2.2
- FSC Only
- LEED 2009
- MRC7 - Dec 2010 vote (54% for FSC only)
- LEED v4
- Responsible Sourcing of Raw Materials - FSC (or USGBC Approved Program)
Wood Industry Decline

State Comparisons Through Time

Per Capita RMC Production

Forest Ownership in the Coterminous United States, 2006

Private forest
Public forest
Nonforest land
Water
State by State

- 2011 Oregon – Wood First HB3429
- 2011 Oregon – Anti-LEED HB 4166
- 2011 Washington – LCA SB5485
- 2011 Maine – Executive Order – SFI
- 2012 Oregon – Executive Order – Utility of Wood
- 2012 Georgia – Executive Order – SFI

State by State

- 2012 Alabama – SB 326, HB 457- SFI
- **2013 N. Carolina – HB 628- SFI**
- 2013 Florida – HB 269 – SFI
Talking Points - Wood First

- It is neither good public policy, nor good construction practice, to prescribe by legislation the material to use for any particular project.
- Given the realities of the import-export markets for forest products, the concept primarily benefits out-of-state and Canadian forest product interests.
- Wood First is a “zero sum game” economically - it seeks to protect jobs in one sector at the expense of those working in another.

Talking Points - Wood First Con’t

- The legislation protects jobs in one sector at the expense of those working in other sectors.
- Providing an artificial benefit to any one material can only reduce value for money in construction projects, a cost that legislatures should not impose.
- Artificial preferences for any given material mean less value for taxpayer-funded projects that would otherwise employ alternative construction materials.
Talking Points - Wood First Con’t

- Building professionals, including fire safety experts, should determine which materials are safe and appropriate for any given type of structure.
- It is not good policy to change building codes except through normal, well-established processes. The building codes, which are developed collaboratively with highly trained professionals with extensive technical testing. Building codes set standards through a science-based, objective and transparent process, with rigorous evaluation of acceptable materials for any particular use.

Talking Points – Anti-FSC (LEED)

- Locally grown wood can also can get credit under the LEED program even if the forest is not certified by the Forest Stewardship Council because it counts towards the regional material credit.
- Given the realities of the import-export markets for forest products, the concept primarily benefits out-of-state and Canadian forest product interests.
Talking Points – Anti-FSC (LEED) Con’t

- Without LEED, locally produced materials (such as steel) will lose the advantage for local materials and that will in turn open the market to foreign materials (e.g. steel)
- A/E firms in the state have invested millions to register, train and test employees to become LEED Accredited professionals.

Resources and Questions?

- [www.nrmca.org/codes/woodfirst](http://www.nrmca.org/codes/woodfirst)