



**Oregon  
Mass Timber  
Coalition**



## **Industry and Community Listening Session Summary**

**November 17, 2023**

Over 60 people participated in the first Oregon Mass Timber Coalition Industry listening Session held virtually on November 17, 2023. The two-hour meeting provided the Coalition an opportunity to inform industry representatives and partners on the progress of ongoing work and to solicit questions, get feedback, and confirm desired future engagement with the Coalition in these efforts.

The following link includes information from the meeting, including a recording of the presentation and discussion and participants' Jamboard comments:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/k5f2jnojnxhh8qgc58qse/h?rlkey=4pw78x8kgguh3yd8v0qe669nx&dl=0>

The virtual discussion via Google Jamboard surfaced several known barriers and themes including the need for additional workforce training, wood fiber supply and others. The strong participation and thoughtful discussion showed progress toward the Coalition's goal of strengthening two-way relationships between the Coalition and industry partners and the collective commitment to continuing engagement and communication.

The general themes captured during the listening session include:

- Attendees broadly recognized the Coalition's approach as effectively growing mass timber production, its application to housing in the region and as a model for others.
- Respondents identified the need for greater small business plan development, consumer adoption of housing prototypes, and direct investments in local mass timber housing production.
- Fiber supply is a known and pervasive barrier to the northwest becoming a mass timber manufacturing hub and hinders the industry's growth.
- Additional training and education for developers and incentives to encourage mass timber construction would increase the demand for mass timber.
- Training is a widely recognized need, including "on the job" training as well as K-12 programming; the Coalition should focus on workforce training to help overcome production barriers.
- The US EDA recently designated the Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub. Industry partners' feedback is needed to identify complementary investments that can be featured in a Phase 2 grant application due February 29, 2024.
- Participants were eager to receive updates on Coalition work and committed to meeting periodically – likely quarterly – to provide perspective and guidance.