

Senator Noah Robinson SB 1061 A-Eng. Vote Explanation

I strongly support the idea behind SB1061A. Allowing sawmills to apply for a certificate to grade their own lumber will allow small lumber mills to supply high quality lumber for construction projects.

However, I opposed the bill simply because of unnecessary requirements placed on the wood. It requires disclosure in building permits in advance and it will only be allowed in residential projects with documentation. It must even be disclosed in the deed – as though a suboptimum product has been used.

The program itself requires instructors with specific requirements – in a subject that is not complicated and easy to learn. Those who are certified will then need a renewal every 5 years.

In general, there are too many regulations and certifications required by the state under the guise of ensuring quality. Lumber is already an area where quality is not uniform – it is not uncommon to sort through boards at lumber yards for the “good ones.” Carpenters know whether boards are of high quality or not.

It is questionable whether state involvement in certification is enhancing lumber quality, but in the current environment a program like this is needed. It would be a good idea, however, not to include so many restrictions.

I am hoping amendments will be considered in the house to improve this program. I voted no in opposition to the restrictions. I am strongly supportive of the concept.