

August 14th, 2024

District of North Cowichan
7030 Trans-Canada Highway
Duncan, BC
V9L 6A1

Submitted via email: terri.brennan@northcowichan.ca

North Cowichan Mayor and Council,

RE: Support for Western Forest Products Inc. “Western” application to the British Columbia Manufacturing Jobs Fund

Western Forest Products Inc. “Western” has applied to the British Columbia Manufacturing Jobs Fund to support the continued modernization of its manufacturing facilities on Vancouver Island. This modernization plan includes the development and installation of a fibre drying kiln which will be submitted to the cities Development Applications department shortly.

I have attached a draft letter of support for North Cowichan Council to consider as well as a link to the government funding opportunity here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/rural-economic-development/manufacturing-jobs-fund>

Western thanks you in advance for your consideration. Should members of Council have any questions about this request, please reach out to me at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Brad McRae
Director, Government Relations
Western Forest Products Inc.

August 13th, 2024

Western Forest Products Inc.
800 – 1055 West Georgia Street
Royal Centre Building
PO Box 11122
Vancouver, BC V6E 3P3
Canada

Email: bmcræ@westernforest.com; manufacturingjobsfund@gov.bc.ca

RE: Support for Western Forest Products Inc. “Western” application to the British Columbia Manufacturing Jobs Fund

The District of North Cowichan would like to provide a letter of support for Western Forest Products Inc. “Western” application for the British Columbia’s Manufacturing Jobs Fund. Western plays a significant role in our industrial tax base and provides well-paying jobs for hundreds of employees working in Westerns mid-island facilities and over 4,000 employees across its entire operating area. Western support communities through both financial and in-kind support not only in the North Cowichan area, but across its entire operating footprint.

Western plans on constructing a kiln at their Value-Added Division location located in Chemainus. This is a significant investment, and upon completion will:

- Produce higher value products to meet the demand for sustainable, specialty building products in markets around the world; and
- Provide additional capacity to support increased kiln-dried products, including lumber used to produce glued-laminated timber for mass timber applications

These investments are part of Western’s ongoing commitment to support value-added manufacturing on the B.C. Coast to grow its value-added wood products business, all while continuing to improve Western’s long-term competitiveness.

[Municipal Council signature]