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### Idaho Forest Products Commission Essay Contest

It is my opinion that wood is a better choice than other building materials, such as steel or concrete. Wood is better for the environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, and other impacts (American Forest Foundation, 2010). Trees produce oxygen into our environment. Why would we want to use building materials that would harm the air, or contribute to the pollution of our air supply? Steel and concrete consume 12% and 20% more energy, emit 15% and 29% more greenhouse gases, and release 10% and 12% more pollutants into the air, and generate 300% and 225% more water pollutants than wood, respectively (American Forest Foundation, 2010). By growing trees, to produce building materials, we are actually contributing in a good way to our environment.

Many may say that using wood to build with is not economically a good choice. Rising demand for green buildings has positioned wood as a powerful and valuable solution for sustainable structures that doesn't add unnecessary layers of cost or compromise building performance (Think Wood, 2019). Because using wood as a building material has been done for many years, we have developed an economic way of using it. Using other building materials may add many different processes that are not necessary when using wood. Therefore, eliminating many of the extra costs of those processes.

Wood is a renewable resource. Wood is reusable and clean to make into a building material (Debating Science, 2016). Wood is strong, but lightweight, can help insulate buildings and structures, and it is easily transported. People have been using wood to build homes, buildings and structures for many years. Many of these buildings are still standing today. With responsible upkeep, wood buildings and structures can last as long as any others built with other materials. Wood can be easily repaired or replaced, as well.

In my opinion, wood is a better building material than other building materials. It has been used for many years and has stood the test of time. Wood is better for the environment. Trees help produce clean air into our environment. It is a more economical choice for a building material. In many cases, wood is cheaper than other building materials, and in our area buying wood helps support many of our families and communities. And finally wood is a renewable resource. Using wood for a building material not only helps our planet, local environment, but also our local communities and families. Build with wood whenever you can.

## References

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