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January 25, 2012

MEASURE: SB 1511  
EXHIBIT: 54  
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES  
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Tom Lindley

The Honorable Chris Garrett  
State Representative, District 38  
900 Court Street, NE H-377  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: SB 1511 and HB 4126 / Ecosystem Services Markets**

Dear Chris:

SB 1511 and HB 4126 are essentially identical and address Ecosystem Service Markets. SB 1511 is scheduled for a hearing on February 2 before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; HB 4126 is likely to be referred to the House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water. I write to support both SB 1511 and HB 4126.

As you know, I participated in the ad hoc working group that developed related SB 513, which passed in the 2009 session. In addition, I am on the Board of Directors of Willamette Partnership, a leading nonprofit on the national stage in the efforts to promote a market-based approach to regulatory compliance and mitigation.

I represent many Oregon businesses, some of which have been in Oregon for decades and others that have recently moved into our state. My clients range from manufacturers, food processors and timber companies to technology companies, composting facilities, and nonprofit environmental organizations. I also represent municipalities. Despite my diverse client base, my clients are united in their desire for regulatory certainty and the flexibility to achieve those regulatory requirements in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

A market-based approach to regulatory compliance makes sense for both Oregon generally and for my diverse clients in particular. This is true for many reasons. First, mitigation requirements will be more streamlined and uniform on a project-by-project basis if credits for mitigation requirements or regulatory compliance can be purchased through a market-based ecosystem services ban. Second, the mitigation efforts will be performed by environmental mitigation specialists, whose sole focus is performing mitigation in order to create real credits, thus ensuring that mitigation will likely be verified by independent third parties with

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support of the agencies to ensure that mitigation requirements are actually being met. Fourth, having credits available in a market-driven ban for industry and developers to purchase will reduce the transaction time and regulatory uncertainty and will allow for projects to go forward in an efficient way. Finally, increasing the efficiency of compliance may even attract additional companies, jobs, and income to the state while at the same time protecting and enhancing Oregon's environment by adding high value ecosystem services.

Thank you for your leadership in support of ecosystem services markets in Oregon. Please continue to support both SB 1511 and HB 4126, and feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



Tom Lindley

TEL:cr

cc: Sen. Jackie Dingfelder  
Sen. Alan Olsen  
Rep. Vic Gilliam  
Rep. Jules Bailey  
Rep. Tobias Read  
John Ledger, AOI  
Sara Vickerman, Defenders of Wildlife  
Janet Gillaspie, ACWA