



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner

27 January 2012

MEASURE: SB 1511
EXHIBIT: 61
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Annabelle Jaramillo

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Thank you for your interest in strengthening our state's ecosystems through market solutions. In Benton County we believe that through such solutions a large majority, if not all residents, will benefit. Many in our County have strong interests in conservation and collaboration. We recognize that the best solutions come about when we all work together. We believe we can protect our natural environment through collaboration and incentives.

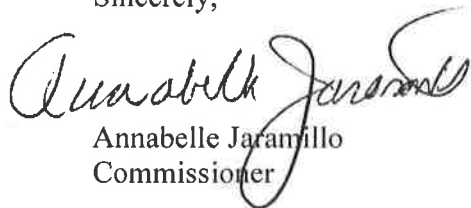
The potential benefits pointed out in SB 1511 and HB 4126, are compatible with our values. That:

- Businesses can gain greater flexibility in complying with environmental laws.
- Rural landowners can get an additional source of revenue from selling ecosystem services.
- Environmentalists are assured mitigation is effective.
- Oregon workers benefit from the restoration of jobs created by the demand for ecosystem services.

I had the valuable opportunity to participate with the ad hoc group working on ecosystems market solutions during the last session. I strongly advocated that counties and other local governments would benefit from ecosystem services markets. We are held to the same standards for smart land-use planning, protection of endangered and threatened species and mitigation efforts in restoring and preserving natural systems.

We urge that ecosystems markets solutions move forward this legislative session. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,


Annabelle Jaramillo
Commissioner

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