



MEASURE: SB 1511
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SUBMITTED BY: Bob Van Dyk

February 1, 2012

Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 4126 and Senate Bill 1511, relating to ecosystem services. I urge you to pass these bills.

The Wild Salmon Center is an international non-profit working to conserve wild Pacific salmon across their range. The pressure of development and overharvesting create enormous challenges to salmon. These bills will create mechanisms that can help meet the challenges of sustaining healthy wild salmon runs in Oregon.

First, these bills encourage pro-active attention to the existing benefits that natural systems provide. Our society has often taken for granted nature's bounty; we only realize the value of nature when we have diminished its benefits. These bills encourages a more systematic and forward-looking approach.

Second, while there have been a variety of conservation strategies developed for Oregon's natural resources, there needs to be better integration of conservation plans to increase efficiency and effectiveness. These bills promotes such integration.

Third, these bills will promote more strategic efforts to mitigate degradation caused by some development. In particular, these bills calls for governments to consider natural solutions to our infrastructure needs. Protecting the function of natural amenities such as wetlands, for example, can provide for flood control and water quality protection, thereby eliminating the need for built infrastructure that is both expensive to build and maintain.

In short, these two bills carry forward the Oregon tradition of finding innovative and proactive ways to maintain and enhance the natural bounty we have inherited. I urge you to support it.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Bob Van Dyk
Forest Policy Manager

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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