

January 30, 2012

Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Oregon State Capitol S-407
Salem, Oregon 97301

MEASURE: SB 1511
EXHIBIT: 63
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Catherine Macdonald

Dear Chair Dingfelder and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,


The Nature Conservancy has been an active participant in the development of ecosystem service science and strategies to benefit people and nature here in Oregon and across the world. I was pleased to work with the diverse group of stakeholders on the Ecosystem Services Markets Working Group (established by the 2009 Legislature as part of implementation of Senate Bill 513) and support your efforts to implement some of the Working Group's recommendations through Senate Bill 1511.

Senate Bill 1511 would continue Oregon's leadership in the protection of ecosystem services and advancement of market-based strategies. It does four critical things that will benefit Oregon's ecosystems, landowners, agencies and businesses:

- 1) Aligns state conservation priorities and goals to better target conservation investments. Improved alignment and clarity should improve efficiency and results of existing conservation programs and policies;
- 2) Improves how mitigation is implemented in Oregon;
- 3) Encourages agencies to support incentives and markets that will provide opportunities for added economic return to agricultural and forest landowners who exercise good stewardship; and
- 4) Promotes the use of natural infrastructure.

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,
Catherine Macdonald



Director of Conservation Programs