



Testimony
SB1511
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The Association of Oregon Counties supports SB 1511.

Counties understand the value of a market-based approach to conserving Oregon's environment. Ecosystem services provide important benefits including clean water, clean air, flood control, and healthy fish and wildlife habitat. SB 1511 specifically addresses this market-based approach and the need for improved efficiency, focused investments, and more consistent measurement and management of ecosystem services across political boundaries.

Counties believe that SB 1511 takes the right approach by encouraging, not requiring, state agencies and local governments to use innovative approaches to address ecological values within the context of local economic realities. The bill provides support for greater flexibility in complying with environmental laws and will assist development by providing readily available compliance options to public and private developers. The bill also enables rural landowners to get an additional source of revenue from selling ecosystem services and provides Oregonians jobs in environmental restoration and ecosystem services.

Counties are responsible for land-use planning, reducing the impacts to wildlife and mitigation efforts to conserve natural resources and the environment. To this end, counties will benefit from SB 1511 and ecosystem service markets in Oregon.