



January 24, 2012

RE: Support for SB 1511 and HB 4126

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature:

Climate Solutions works to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to climate change by galvanizing leadership, growing investment and bridging divides. Last year, we launched the Northwest Regional Biocarbon Initiative which links key Northwest innovators in biological carbon sequestration. Just as Oregon's nationally-recognized policy leadership on clean energy has helped create good paying jobs in the state, we believe the Northwest has an opportunity to prosper while leading the nation in biocarbon innovation. The research that supports this new Initiative revealed that our region's forests, agricultural soils and even urban environments are valuable allies in addressing the challenge of climate change.

Because our natural systems play such a critical role in absorbing and storing carbon, Climate Solutions is very encouraged by Oregon's leadership in developing ecosystem services markets. As such, we enthusiastically support HB 4126 and SB 1511. Oregon's innovation in creating credible market-based approaches to conservation, as reflected in the bills, will help farmers and forest landowners by providing new revenue streams for the valuable ecosystem services provided by their good stewardship, including carbon capture and storage.

Another aspect of SB 1511 and HB 4126 that we heartily endorse is the encouragement to state agencies and local governments to consider natural infrastructure when planning development. A key finding in our research is that natural infrastructure alternatives such as watershed protection and riparian enhancement can bring significant biocarbon benefits along with improved revenues for landowners and significant savings on infrastructure costs for ratepayers and taxpayers. Thus, natural infrastructure approaches are both beneficial for the environment and fiscally prudent. Indeed, natural infrastructure options often result in significant cost savings for municipalities and other jurisdictions.

Thank you for your leadership in support of ecosystem services markets in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Allan

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