

MKM

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January 31, 2012

Members of the Oregon Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature:

I am writing to express my support for SB 1511 and HB 4126, and through passage of either bill, the development of a functional, marketplace approach to valuing the vast array of ‘services’ provided by functional ecosystems. The reality we face today is that sustainable economies must be both economically and ecologically sound. Development of a fully functional “ecosystem services marketplace” will constitute a significant milestone toward meeting these twin drivers.

My belief in and support for, a market-based approach to valuing ecosystem services was enhanced by my participation on the 2010 SB 513 work group. The breath and diversity of participants on this group was a testament to what I believe is a broad based support for using the marketplace to provide financial incentives to better manage, protect and restore functional ecosystems while at the same time, providing valuable income streams to Oregon’s landowners. As you well know, Oregon’s landscapes, including farms, ranches and timber lands provide a wealth of previously undervalued ecosystem services that may generate revenue for landowners.

The passage of SB 1511 or HB 4126 will establish a market for these critically important resources and ecosystem services, thereby lending real value to the resources and contributing significantly to their conservation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts as this bill moves through the Legislature. If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Signed - KMCM

Kemper M. McMaster