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Oregon Legislature
Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, S-415
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1511 and HB 4126

Dear Oregon Legislature,

February 1, 2012

I would like to thank you for sponsoring House Bills SB 1511 and HB 4126. As you may recall, I am on the Sustainability Board that led to the SB 513 work group process and I have been involved with these policy recommendations. The market-based process that these bills support will help drive new local partnerships that are good for business, the environment, and the community. They can help build stronger ties in the community and can drive some truly win-win outcomes for stakeholders.

One example is a potential partnership in Southern Oregon between a municipal waste treatment facility and agricultural irrigation that reduces capital investment and ends up with a net gain for the environment. Developing ecosystem services markets would help drive an equitable outcome. There are many potential opportunities for rural areas that can benefit communities as well as agriculture, ranching, forestry and the environment. These bills send a strong message that the State of Oregon will support these solutions.

The State of Oregon can continue to show national leadership in sustainability and market based solutions to environmental challenges with the passage of House Bill 3109.

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions. Again, I thank you for your support on the passage of these bills.

Sincere regards,

PDK

Peter D. Kratz
Executive Vice President, Operations

Cc: Sara Vickerman
Senior Director, Biodiversity Partnerships