



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

February 21, 2019

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 2020 Testimony for Public Hearing on February 25th

To Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, which serves and represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. We are concerned by the omission of dedicated investments in the proposed 2019 climate change legislation (HB 2020).

Without a dedicated investment in rural areas and natural lands, the state could miss a critical opportunity to address climate change and its impacts.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are local organizations that promote and implement voluntary natural resource conservation. Conservation Districts were founded following the Dust Bowl, a devastating event that has been identified by many researchers as an analogue for the physical, social, and economic impacts of climate change. Working lands conservation programs like Soil and Water Conservation Districts came too late to prevent the Dust Bowl, and carbon emissions policy is coming too late to prevent climate change. Our communities are already feeling the effects of climate change in increased droughts and fires. **Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies on natural and working lands are not reliant on innovations in technology—they can be implemented efficiently and cost effectively *right now*.** We urge you not delay in investing in these solutions.

Through conservation, restoration, and improved land management, we can address 37% of global emissions. Oregon has more than 30 million acres of forestland, 16 million acres of farming and ranchland, and many more acres of other natural lands, accounting for more than 75% of Oregon's land. This land could be included in strategies to sequester carbon, and is vital natural infrastructure for adaptation and resilience to the effects of climate change on water, fire, human health, and the economy.

Please include forests, natural, and working lands at the core of Oregon's climate program. These solutions are not reliant on innovations in technology, they can be implemented efficiently

and cost effectively *right now*. The natural and working lands carve-out is a way to ensure that those impacted by a price on carbon also benefit from investments in sequestering it.

We urge you to include a specific commitment of at least 37% of the Oregon Climate Investments Fund for natural and working lands to be a part of the global solution.

We recognize and applaud all of the work that you and others have done to get to this point- thank you for your continued efforts as a friend of Oregon's natural resources. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Freitas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anna" and last name "Freitas" clearly distinguishable.

Anna H. Freitas

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