

March 3, 2019

Rep. Anna Williams
900 Court St. NE, H-377
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2020 “the Clean Energy Jobs Bill” and some important amendment recommendations

Dear Rep. Williams:

My name is David Bugni. Our family owns about 84 acres of forestland near Estacada. We support HB 2020, in general, and we specifically want to advocate for the carbon sequestration and storage program outlined in sections 7, 19, 30, 31 and 68 of HB 2020, and present some recommendations for amendments. Additionally, this letter represents the views of seven other family forestland owners that live in District 52 who also support this bill and recommended amendments. Together, we own over 600 acres of productive forestland.

Approximately 35% of Oregon’s forestlands are in private ownership (over 10 million acres), and of this percentage, about 43% are owned by families. The majority of family-owned forests are located at low to mid-elevations (between the valleys and the higher elevation federal forests), making these some of the state’s most productive forestland. Therefore, private forestland owners can significantly add to Oregon’s carbon sequestration and storage goals.

The following suggestions are for amendments to HB 2020, and are meant to clarify and expand upon those sections dealing with carbon storage and sequestration policy and related rural area programs:

1. Establish a minimum allocation within the Oregon Climate Investments Fund that directs at least twenty percent of allowance auction proceeds to incentivize climate-friendly projects, programs or activities that represent investments in natural and working lands (section 30 of HB 2020). This is vital for rural landowners and related agencies and will help to build support for this bill from within the rural community. This percentage was included in the legislation for the 2018 version of a similar bill (SB 1507, section 28, part (3)(b)), but for some reason was not included in HB 2020. **Very important.**
2. Include provisions, perhaps in section 8 (definitions) and section 68 of HB 2020, for aggregating forest landowners in forest offset protocols, to ensure small family forest ownerships are not excluded from participation, as is the case in California’s forest offset protocol. Aggregation should be defined to include, as a minimum, two or more private landowners with perhaps five acres, minimum, of forestland ownership. Most family forestland owners (about 75%) own less than 50 acres, so any carbon sequestration and storage program should address how to involve them. As mentioned above, family forests are a significant percentage of Oregon’s overall forestland inventory, and we need as many landowners as practicable to participate to maximize Oregon’s sequestration and storage goals. Many forestland owners want to be a part of the climate change solution. **Very important.**
3. Direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to identify and evaluate ways to improve coordination of federal, state, and local programs designed to incentivize private forest landowners across the state to enhance implementation of forest management actions that benefit carbon sequestration and storage. This is related to Recommendation 2, above, and is important to maximize efficiency and landowner participation. Again, the primary goal is to grow and retain as many healthy trees as possible to sequester and store carbon for as long as practicable.
4. Consider, perhaps in section 68 of HB 2020, incentivized, voluntary linkages to environmentally-related water and forest benefits that could be enhanced by this bill. Maximization of the number of healthy and large trees is a key sequestration goal. This naturally leads to the development of more diverse, complex and resilient forests. Examples include: 1) an increase in the amount and density of coniferous

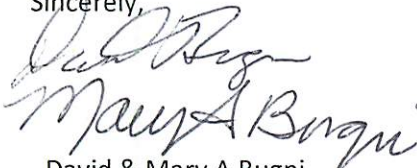
trees that must remain within the riparian area to provide greater shade cover and increased large woody debris to enhance stream habitat, 2) an increase in the amount and duration of dead wood (either standing or as down logs) to remain in the forest, and 3) an increase in tree species diversity. For example, in lieu of a Douglas-fir monoculture, encourage reforestation or Interplanting a mix of species (both coniferous and deciduous) that are native to the landscape. This will also function as a hedge to reduce the risk of damage to a single tree species due to invasive insects and disease; as the climate changes, as these types of hazards migrate in from warmer climates. This recommendation could be a component of recommendation 1, above.

5. Include, perhaps in section 19 part (4) of HB 2020, the representation of small family forestland owners in the development and review of forest offset protocols, as well as experienced carbon project developers and verifiers, due to the highly technical nature of protocols. Representation from those of us who will implement any carbon sequestration and storage policy is vital to be effective.


We hope you will consider these proposed amendment concepts as the legislature deliberates during the amendments process of this complex bill. We believe such action will only improve the efficacy of HB 2020 regarding a thoughtful carbon storage and sequestration program, and more favorable approval from rural Oregonians, which is vital for maximum implementation. All of Oregon will benefit.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



David & Mary A Bugni
30265 SE Kowall Rd.
Estacada OR 97023
(84 acres)



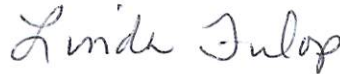
Roger & Cathy Fantz
27300 SE Betty Rd.
Eagle Creek, OR 97022
(39 acres)



Mike Johnson
Eagle Creek Forest LLC
Eagle Creek, OR 97022
(104 acres)



Bruce McCullough
29895 German Hill Rd.
Estacada, OR 97023
(152 acres)



Jeff & Linda Fulop
45250 SE George Rd.
Estacada, OR 97023
(134 acres)



Dale & Cindy Zimmerman
43055 SE Clausen Rd.
Estacada, OR 97023
(76 acres)

John & Ginger McMichael
30125 SE Kowall Rd.
Estacada, OR 97023
(12 acres)



Bill & Georgia Lenon
38821 SE Kitzmiller Rd.
Eagle Creek, OR 97022
(10 acres)

Cc: Senator Michael Dembrow, Representative Karin Power & members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction