

March 28, 2019

To: the Oregon Joint Legislative Committee on Carbon Reduction

Re: My continued support for HB 2020 and a proposed amendment recommendation for stipulated funding levels for a formalized carbon storage and sequestration program

Dear Members of the Committee:

I have read the latest proposed amendments to HB 2020-31 (3/25/19). You all have done a wonderful job of integrating public testimony into this far-reaching and needed bill, which will make it more effective than the initial version.

Despite the bill's many improvements, and while reference is made within HB 2020-31 to efforts to promote carbon storage and sequestration (CSS) on Oregon's forestlands, **it does not appear as if any mandated levels of funding are proposed to study, manage and incentivize forest landowners to formally enroll in an effective CSS program.** This would be over and above the direct compensation provided through the appropriate portion of the calculated offsets of section 18 of the bill and would seem necessary for effective implementation. If I recall in previous testimony by experts from the Oregon Department of Forestry and others, Oregon forests provide an added net storage of carbon, making our forests the state's most effective, quickest and most economical solution to remove carbon from the atmosphere, as part of Oregon's carbon reduction goal strategy, provided that trees remain in the ground for a sufficient length of time to maximize their CSS capabilities (60 years or more). In order for this to happen, private forestland owners must be educated on this subject and the appropriate incentives must be provided to change the current standard of practice of harvesting timber on a shorter timeline rotation, for those who wish to enroll. (Our family owns about 84 acres of forestland, and we want to become part of such a program to help solve the very serious issue of climate change.)

Therefore, **I strongly recommend that an economic study be performed to determine what percentages of funds should be set aside from the Climate Investment Fund (section 47) and/or the Transportation Decarbonization Investments Account (sections 23 and 31), to fairly, reliably and effectively implement the CSS portion of HB 2020-31.** It would be a pity if insufficient funds were allocated to such a cornerstone component of HB 2020-31, thereby preventing all willing forestland owners to enroll.)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Bugni
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Cc: Representative Anna Williams (our elected representative)