

February 2, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
FROM: Making Energy Work for Rural Oregon Coalition
SUBJECT: Support for SB 1530

Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Members of the *Making Energy Work for Rural Oregon* Coalition is writing in support of SB 1530. This legislation proposes a practical and effective mechanism to address the climate crisis, while providing substantial investments for the clean energy sector, rural businesses, and our state's natural and working lands. We do believe there is room to improve upon and strengthen the legislation to maximize opportunities for a robust clean energy economy. The coalition is eager to work with the legislature to ensure we advance meaningful climate resilience strategies.

Making Energy Work is a statewide network of rural businesses, local leadership, natural resource and community-based organizations, and technical experts working to advance locally sourced, clean energy solutions for rural communities. The network drives project development, innovative financing, and provides a collective voice for rural Oregonians.

We believe that a low carbon future is essential to maintain the competitiveness of our state's businesses and industry, and presents new opportunities to transition toward a sustainable and resilient clean energy future. This legislation provides significant investments to expand and diversify the clean energy and natural resources sectors, while providing protections for manufacturing, low-income households, and rural drivers. In doing so, it recognizes the contributions that rural landscapes and workers make to combat climate change, encourages and compensates further voluntary action, and prevents cost increases for individuals operating on narrow margins.

SB 1530 will invest tens of millions of dollars each year in rural Oregon, with dedicated funding for upgrades to rural infrastructure, clean energy development, wildfire risk reduction, natural and working lands, and cleaner, more cost-effective transportation options across the state. In particular, we appreciate the emphasis on investments in most impacted communities, support for local project development and prioritization, and recognition for tribal communities.

With over 55,000 jobs already in the clean energy sector, Oregon is well positioned to seize the new clean energy economy. We urge the legislature to pass SB 1530 as a sensible and balanced approach to combating our climate crisis and transitioning to a robust clean energy economy.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to a smart and resilient clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Northwest, Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Inc, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, Cascadia Rural Fuels, Mayor of Milwaukie, Mark Gamba, and Energy Design.



CITY OF MILWAUKIE

