



PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Representative Paul Holvey
Chair, House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

February 19th, 2020

Re: Support for HB 4167

Dear Representative Holvey:

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) commends your leadership on HB 4167 and its goal of economy-wide carbon emissions reductions. I want to express our strong support for this bill. HB 4167 clearly recognizes the vital role of lands and landowners/managers in helping solve the climate crisis. We are particularly pleased that you are “putting money where your words are” by establishing the Climate Investments Fund and committing:

- 25% to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for natural and working lands, up from the 20% allocation to natural and working lands in HB 2020; and
- 25% to the State Forestry Department for wildfire mitigation efforts.

Urgent action on climate is needed for our communities, especially rural communities who depend on natural and working lands for their livelihoods. Oregonians are already experiencing the effects of climate change, such as floods, drought and wildfire. Not only are significant cuts to the state’s emissions needed, but investments to natural and working lands are critical in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, protecting regional economies, enhancing water security, and improving wildlife habitat. **Protecting and restoring the state’s natural and working lands are a cost-effective and readily-available carbon bank.**

We appreciate your leadership and urge you to take swift action to pass climate legislation this session. PFT supports sectoral policies that aim to reduce carbon emissions that are putting our landscapes, communities, health and heritage at risk. We strongly encourage support for this bill to mitigate climate change while also generating new investments in Oregon’s forests, rivers, lands and working people.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Wayburn
President