



**WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP**

March 29, 2021

Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 5539

Willamette Partnership submits written testimony in support of SB 5539, budget for the Department of State Lands. Willamette Partnership is a conservation non-profit with a deep commitment to building stronger, healthier, and more equitable communities. We work with communities across Oregon to change how they build infrastructure, protect water sources and critical habitat, and manage farms and forests as a way to strengthen community resilience.

Across the state, Oregon communities face complex challenges at the nexus of land and water management, economic development, public health, and community resiliency. The policy packages included in SB 5539 will allow DSL to play a critical role in helping communities address these challenges. From the Portland Harbor clean-up, to management of the Elliott State Forest, to grants and services to local communities, DSL is a valued partner, technical support provider, and steward of public resources.

Willamette Partnership support the funding and policy packages outlined in SB 5539 and looks forward to continued work together with our agency partners.

Sincerely,

Sara O'Brien  
Executive Director  
Willamette Partnership  
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