

**Testimony of Matt Cyrus, President  
Oregon Family Farm Association  
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment  
March 30, 2021  
Re: SB 541**



For the record, I am Matt Cyrus of Cyrus Family Farms located in Central Oregon and I serve as the President of the Oregon Family Farm Association. OFFA is dedicated to protecting the heritage of Oregon's family farms, helping farmers and educating the public about the health and future of family farming in Oregon.

Chair Beyer and members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 541, bringing into Oregon law a policy statement on carbon sequestration by Oregon's lands. OFFA supports SB 541 which seeks to bring recognition by the state of Oregon of its natural and working lands into the equation of the reduction levels of our state's greenhouse gas emissions.

When HB 3543 was passed in 2007 by the Oregon Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kulongoski, the legislation enacted greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals for the state, created the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC), established the Climate Change Research Institute, and declared several legislative findings around climate change. A significant theme in those findings was around Oregon forests and agriculture. One critical element missing, though, from HB 3543 was the simple recognition of the enormous positive impact Oregon's natural and working lands has in the GHG emissions reduction formula. SB 541 simply brings that key component of Oregon's incredible natural environment into the policy for that section of law. By doing so, we will have an accurate, more comprehensive outlook as we all move forward towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 541 compliments work already underway by the Global Warming Commission which was [outlined in their workplan](#) as directed by Governor Kate Brown in Executive Order 20-04. We appreciate the careful consideration of Oregon's important natural and working lands and the ability to impact Oregon's reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. OGWC's report to the Governor is scheduled for release in June and OFFA looks forward to seeing this work.

Thank you Chair Beyer and committee members for considering SB 541. OFFA urges you to pass this bill so Oregon can make the important addition to state law of the benefits from Oregon's farms, forests and other working lands. SB 541 completes the picture as our state moves ahead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while recognizing this vital component of our state and its economy.