



February 2, 2022

To Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: Support for SB 1546-1, Elliott State Research Forest

Chair Golden and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports HB 1546-1 which will establish the Elliott State Research Forest a valuable asset for learning how to manage our resources in a changing environment. The purposes and management objectives laid out in the legislation are broad, inclusive, and critically important to our future. It is excellent that the forest will be used to advance and support forest health, climate resilience, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, recovery of imperiled species, and water quality and quantity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decision-making process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Dean".

Stan Dean, Advocacy Committee Chair
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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