

Submitter: Harriet Cooke

On Behalf Of: Congregation Pnai Or of Portland OR

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1546

I am writing on behalf of my congregation and our values of a just and sustainable future for all. We strongly support SB 1546 and the establishment of the Elliot State Research Forest. The research forest will consist of lands formerly constituting the Elliott State Forest, creating a contiguous 34,000+-acre, permanent reserve on the west side of the Elliott State Forest, and smaller reserves across the rest of the Forest. Within these reserves, previously logged stands will be restored to again become older forest, thereby increasing the amount of mature and old-growth forest over time. It is time for our State forest to be a model for Oregon forestry a place to not only preserve and restore desperately needed carbon sequestration through supporting Old Growth and mature forest development, but will allow us to study the effects of climate change on our forests, and what kinds of trees will be most enduring in the rising temperatures and changing climate we are confronting. Thank you!