



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

SB 1534 – Carbon Sequestration - Natural and Working Lands

Testimony by Gretchen Valido, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources - February 8, 2022

Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in favor of SB 1534**, which will enable development of statewide goals for carbon sequestration and storage for Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, agricultural lands, and coastal tidal zones. Oregon Sierra Club respectfully urges you to pass this groundbreaking legislation during the 2022 legislative session.

This legislation will provide a framework and resources to begin implementing the Oregon Global Warming Commission's (OGWC) goal of enabling voluntary management of natural and working lands (NWL) as resilient climate sinks. The bill's transparency tools are intended to monitor achievements and will foster a culture of common purpose and energy around meeting climate and carbon sink goals. This comprehensive legislation highlights climate-smart agriculture, forestry and conservation practices that will protect and restore resilient carbon stocks in native ecosystems and increase resilient carbon stocks in vegetation and soils in natural and working lands and waters. HB 1534 continues to model Oregon's national climate leadership.

We support these HB 1534 features and outcomes:

1. The clear purpose of establishing an unequivocal state policy of increasing carbon sequestration in natural and working lands and waters.
2. Transparent agency monitoring and reporting of incremental progress to OGWC.
3. Inclusive representation on the Advisory Committee and rigorous monitoring and reporting requirements for state agencies.
4. Development of an inventory of net carbon sequestration by natural and working lands and waters, to be created by the Institute of Natural Resources, making data available to inform ongoing work of private and public bodies.
5. Creation of 2010-2019 carbon sequestration baselines and community impact metrics, making information transparently available to legislators, public agencies, citizens, etc. for facilitating carbon goal refinements.

6. An Institute of Natural Resources study of the potential of workforce and economic development strategies to increase carbon sequestration, which will inspire innovation, cooperation, and public confidence in Oregon’s leadership in climate remediation work.
7. Prioritizing and protecting Oregon’s forests as globally significant, cost-effective carbon sinks and a critical in-place key climate remediation strategy.
8. Highlighting agriculture’s vast untapped potential to make quantitative strides toward carbon sequestration goals.
9. Anticipated paybacks to Oregon of cleaner air, water, soil, food and landscape, providing mental and physical health benefits to people and biodiverse natural communities.
10. Anticipated co-benefits arising from fewer storm surges, wildfires, droughts, heat domes, poor air and water quality, crop losses, rain and snow bombs, atmospheric rivers, biodiversity losses, unstable weather, and reduced instability and the associated devastating costs that such events impose.

In conclusion, with full-throated support, Oregon Sierra Club urges the 2022 Legislature to vote favorably for the passage and implementation of HB 1534 in its entirety.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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