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## Oppose SB 1534: Sets Natural Resource Policy Without Adequate Input

SB 1534 was introduced on behalf of the Oregon Global Warming Commission ( “OGWC”) as an instrument to advance its climate policy directives for the state’s natural and working lands. Though our coalition supports the OGWC’s intent to recognize and promote natural and working lands as part of the state’s climate solution, we are **opposed** to this bill for several reasons:

### Not Properly Vetted:

Though the OGWC’s natural and working lands goals were crafted with some early input from landowners and natural resource stakeholders, this bill goes beyond the recommendations in that document and enshrines in statute policy declarations and definitions that did not receive adequate input. Given that these policy statements will most directly and immediately impact the lands and business operations of private landowners, those stakeholders must be given an opportunity to engage meaningfully in their development.

*We cannot support putting a definition of “natural and working lands” or “climate smart agriculture and forestry practices” in statute nor support framing a general policy statement regarding carbon sequestration on natural and working lands this session. These topics need to be vetted in the interim, with opportunity for meaningful and robust stakeholder input.*

### Substantive Concerns:

- The blanket declaration in Section 2 that it is the policy of the state to increase carbon sequestration on working lands and waters is overbroad. This needs clarification and refinement.
- The definitions of “natural and working lands” and “climate smart agriculture and forestry” are inadequate and establish statutory precedent that could adversely impact agricultural and forestry operations in the state.
- The composition of the advisory committee established by Section 3 of the bill does not guarantee adequate participation and representation of the landowner community.
- The bill does not support investment incentives for working lands carbon sequestration work. Any efforts to invest in carbon sequestration on working lands must lead with an understanding of the needs of landowners for incentives and research, not investment in inventories that many never lead to the types of investments sought by landowners.