

Submitter: Karen Harrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Kennemer, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery:

I write to you as the Interim Chair of the Legislative Task Force of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter (CRPDX). We strongly encourage the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery to pass SB 1534.

Oregon's beauty, culture, and economy are rooted in our Natural and Working Lands. It is our identity and is recognized throughout the world as an inspiring place that appreciates and cares for its environment.

Our Natural and Working lands are threatened by the changing climate. This change has resulted in extreme heat, erratic and dangerous weather events, and increased wildfires, destroying our forests, burning homes, farms, and businesses, and dramatically increasing air pollution. Climate change is felt by every Oregonian.

A solution to fighting the increased risks of run-away climate change is natural carbon sequestration. This is a solution recognized in Oregon by those who work the land and by those organizations who work to protect the land. It is a solution recognized by the UN and by our federal government. Protecting natural and working lands has the potential to offer the largest and most effective natural solution for carbon sequestration while also protecting our water ways and reducing air pollution.

The natural beauty of our state reflects a long legacy of protecting our planet and our natural resources. Support of strong environmental policy, such as 100% Clean Energy by 2040, reflects our state's commitment to ensuring that our children and our children's children inherit a world that is safe and habitable. We believe climate change is an existential crisis threatening that future. The Legislative Task Force of CRPDX supports policies to affect the rapid adoption of clean and renewable energy sources, protection of our natural environment and the phasing out of fossil fuel sourced energy, all of which contribute to air and water pollution, public health problems, and global warming.

We urge you to support SB 1534.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington
Interim Chair, Legislative Task Force
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter