



Locally Grown  
and  
GROWING STRONG

**Testimony in Opposition of SB 1534**  
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation  
Senate Natural Resources & Wildfire Committee

February 8, 2022

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our nearly 7,000 family farm and ranch members across the state of Oregon, many of whom are engaged in important proactive carbon sequestration work on their farms and ranches. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on SB 1534, which creates new definitions of working lands, and directs the development of a carbon sequestration inventory.

Our members have always supported voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, including programs for carbon sequestration. However, this bill creates no such programs, does not directly invest in working lands, and contains no guarantees the state will develop or support such programs in the future. Instead, it establishes an advisory committee, creates a goal of increasing carbon sequestration on working lands, creates new definitions for carbon sequestration on working lands, and directs the creation of a carbon sequestration inventory for natural and working lands.

OFB was not engaged in the development of this bill, despite the fact that we are the state's largest agricultural organization and represent thousands of members who own and manage thousands of acres of working lands across the state. As drafted, the bill creates problematic new definitions around carbon sequestration on working lands and directs the creation of an inventory of carbon sequestration on working lands. Stakeholders have not had an opportunity to meaningfully shape the concept or provide input on how we would like to see the state invest in working lands.

While we think that there are tremendous opportunities for research into agricultural practices that increase carbon sequestration and addressing barriers to increasing sequestration across all types of production, this bill does not start with a partner-oriented approach to sequestration. Instead of working with the landowner community to identify and address research needs and barriers to increasing sequestration on agricultural lands, the bill opts to create yet another advisory committee to complete an

inventory that is as likely to result in new regulatory requirements as partnership-based conservation activities. Our members are not comfortable with this approach to increasing carbon sequestration on working lands.

We would encourage the Global Warming Commission to engage meaningfully with the landowner community in the interim and return in 2023 with a framework that is actually likely to result in meaningful investment in research and opportunities to partner with landowners on voluntary, collaborative conservation programs to improve carbon sequestration on working lands.

Please email [MaryAnneCooper@oregonfb.org](mailto:MaryAnneCooper@oregonfb.org) with any questions related to these comments.