

February 10, 2023

Senator Jeff Golden, Chairman
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 530

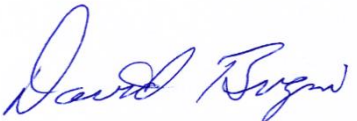
Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Committee.

First, a little background about us. My wife and I are retired, and we own and manage about 83 acres of forestland in western Oregon near Estacada, which we have been doing for over 30 years. We are proud of our forest stewardship, and we were honored for our work in 2021 as Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year. We received this honor not on account of how efficiently we can produce a forest crop, or how well we can log a forest stand; but on account of our forest sustainability practices, fish habitat restoration efforts, and educational services we present on our property to students of all ages about healthy streams and forests. In 2019 we received the "Fish & Wildlife Steward Award for Forestlands, Northwest Oregon Region, Non-industrial Forestlands" (a joint award of the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Fish & Wildlife). We actively manage our forest for many requirements and uses, ranging from infrequent timber harvesting to wildlife habitat enhancements, recreation and riparian restoration. David is currently on the Natural and Working Lands Committee of the Clackamas County Climate Action Task Force, which is studying how natural climate solutions can be integrated into the county's climate action plan. We were also supporters of the 2020 "Clean Energy Jobs" bill, which unfortunately did not pass.

Our main concern about SB 530 focuses on how to engage woodland owners to sign on to such a voluntary program of carbon storage and sequestration (CSS). Private woodland owners (both industrial and small) own about a third of all forestland in Oregon. Aside from the federal government, this is the state's largest resource for natural CSS. However, given the current prices for a metric ton of carbon, very few landowners will do so without significant incentives of one form or another. We recently had our property cruised by Forest Carbon Works to potentially enroll in such a CSS program. Their payments were only about 25% of what one would receive performing a standard harvest rotation (in terms of a present value economic analysis to normalize annual and lump sum revenues). Obviously, this will be a huge financial hurdle to overcome by many landowners until carbon prices increase significantly and/or incentives are put into place. You can spend lots of money on studies, outreach and work in urban areas, but until you develop a plan to overcome this hurdle, Oregon's huge CSS potential on rural natural and working lands will not be realized by those of us who own the private forestland in the state.

In summary, while we support SB 530, language should be inserted into the bill to incentivize landowners to enroll in a voluntary program of carbon storage and sequestration to better equate revenues from such a program compared to a standard harvest rotation model; otherwise, there will be little interest by many landowners in the most significant sector of private natural and working lands that can add tremendous benefit to such a CSS program.

Thank you.
Sincerely,



David & Mary Ann Bugni
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