

Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Feb. 11, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing on behalf of La Creole Orchards to express strong support of the Natural Climate Solutions Bill, SB 530.

I established La Creole Orchards in 2008 on rolling ground just south of the City of Dallas (Polk County). Our primary crop is olives which we press for extra virgin olive oil. We are one of the premier producers of this value-added product in Oregon. Our olive operation has garnered support from federal and state agencies for the work we have done to maintain healthy soils, to improve pollinator habitat, and to conserve precious water.

I am proud to be part of a broad coalition of over 50 farmers and ranchers across Oregon who are urging you to pass SB 530 this session.

I support SB 530 because farmers and ranchers statewide need incentives and technical support in order to more broadly adopt climate-friendly practices.

I have implemented climate-friendly practices at La Creole Orchards because I believe in their dual role: to help mitigate the human impact on climate but also to help the bottom line of my farm: healthier soils, more pollinators, more moisture in the soil or more efficient irrigation all lead to better crops which lead to better profit. We have to balance these two goals. While I implemented a number of climate-friendly practices on my own, with no financial incentives, I have also implemented a number of such practices only because agencies such as USDA Rural Development or USDA NRCS or the Oregon Department of Agriculture or Polk County SWCD were there to support me.

SB 530 will provide incentives and resources farmers need to implement such practices.

Natural Climate Solutions are a win-win for Oregon's climate and for farmers and ranchers and communities across the state.

Please support and do all you can to advance SB 530. Thank you for your consideration.

Bogdan "Beau" Caceu  
La Creole Orchards  
Dallas, OR

