

Submitter: Davis Wilkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Dear Committee Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the Committee,

I write today in support of SB 530, to help maximize carbon sequestration and improve the resilience of Oregon's forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, and natural resource economies.

I support SB 530 because of all I have seen growing up in the Pacific NW: 22 years in Idaho, 10 in Washington and 15 now in Southern Oregon. Over my life, I have grown up on a cattle ranch and helped farm the land. I have spent summers in the mountains and on the rivers of this region. Anyone who has spent time in this region can see the changes happening with significantly increased drought, wildfires and smoke. Our home is dramatically changing and we need to take action.

My children have grown up here. In chorus with their friends, they ask us, "What have you been doing to make this better?" as they head to university to study climate change science and forward-thinking solutions. I want us as a state to be able to look our children in the eye and say, "We could have and should have done more in the past, but now we have more information that guides our actions and we will no longer miss an opportunity to do the right thing for our lands and for you and your children, who will live here when we are (soon) gone."

Natural Climate Solutions are a win-win for Oregon's climate and for farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and entire communities across the state: The same practices that sequester and store carbon also make our lands and waters more resilient to climate-fueled drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures. SB 530 will provide the resources needed to implement these practices.

Oregon has made important progress in recent years to reduce emissions from some of our top polluting sectors; however, we know that additional state action will be necessary to build on this progress. Science tells us that in order to avoid climate catastrophe, we must transform the way we use and manage our land— from how we grow our food, to how we manage our forests and wetlands. At the same time, there is an urgent need to protect Oregon families, communities, and natural resource economies from ever-worsening climate impacts.

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resilient to climate-fueled drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures. Recent climate-fueled wildfires, droughts, and unprecedented heat waves in Oregon are devastating to our natural resources and the local economies and communities that depend on them.

Natural Climate Solutions are a win-win for Oregon's climate and for farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and entire communities across the state. Healthy forests provide clean drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and protection from wildfire. Healthy coastal wetlands sequester carbon as they filter water, provide critical habitat, and protect communities from storm surges.

Healthy forests, waters, and agricultural lands are vital to Oregon's economy, culture, and way of life.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 530. Thank you for your time and your service to our state: it's people, wildlife, and lands. All depend on your wise counsel and leadership and I do not take that for granted.

Davis Wilkins, MD
Ashland, Oregon