

Submitter: Marie Wakefield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

I support SB 530 because 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.

Advancing Natural Climate Solutions will be key to achieving net zero emissions by no later than 2050, which is what the IPCC has concluded is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Healthy forests, waters, and agricultural lands are vital to Oregon’s economy, culture, and way of life.

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: The same practices that sequester and store carbon also make our lands and waters more resilient to climate-fueled drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures.

Healthy soils produce healthier crops, retain more moisture, and improve water quality, while increasing producers’ net earnings over time.

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.

The legislature has a vital opportunity this session to support and invest in climate-smart land management practices in Oregon by supporting SB 530.