



## **Testimony to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

February 14, 2023

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.

Director, Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee  
Board President, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now  
Mentor and Leader, Climate Reality Project

### **Introduction**

- Director of Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee, a grassroots political action committee established to provide a voice for rural Oregonians advocating for climate legislation at the state and local levels.
- Board President of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, with eight years' experience with the organization.
- Mentor and Leader with the Climate Reality Project, trained in 2012.
- Former research scientist, having studied the impacts of climate change on ecologies, humans, and animals for over thirteen years.
- Father of two.

### **Support for Senate Bill 530: Natural Climate Solutions.**

Chair Golden, Vice chair Girod and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

Thank you for considering my testimony on this important legislation. My name is Hogan Sherrow, and I am Director of the Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee (ROCPAC). ROCPAC is a statewide, grassroots coalition dedicated to providing a voice for rural Oregonians who want to see climate legislation at the state and local levels. I am also Board President of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), a Mentor and Leader with the Climate Reality Project, and a father of two. I am also an avid outdoorsman, spending as much time as possible enjoying the natural wonders of Oregon, from hiking the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, to rafting and fishing the Rogue River, to hunting the forests of our region, to camping on the coast with my daughters. My parents moved our family to Oregon in 1982. My dad was a farmer and my mom an appointment secretary, and

they taught me to embrace, respect, and protect our environment – a tradition I am working to pass on to my daughters, and one of the reasons I am supportive of SB 530.

By passing the strongest version possible of SB 530 you have the opportunity to lay the foundation for a natural pillar in our efforts to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change. This legislation is historic in nature, and by supporting it, you will be positioning yourselves on the right side of history and demonstrating to all of Oregon the leadership qualities you were elected for. Thanks to Executive Order 20.04 and recent legislation such as 100% Clean Energy, Oregon is a national leader when it comes to moving toward a sustainable energy future; that will serve as another pillar in our efforts to combat climate change. SB 530 will allow us not only mitigate the problem by reducing emissions substantially, but also must extract from the atmosphere a substantial proportion of the long-lived carbon dioxide already there.

I applaud the Oregon Global Warming Commission for proposing increasing statewide efforts to capture and store carbon dioxide in our natural and working lands. As a rural Oregonian, and someone who speaks on behalf of thousands of my fellow rural Oregonians, we occupy the front lines in confronting climate chaos. We are committed to capturing and storing carbon as part of our efforts to combat that chaos and protect our communities and the land we rely on. One thing I hope members of this committee understand and convey to their constituents is that natural carbon capture and storage also can provide economic benefits to rural Oregonians, in forestry and agriculture.

The Labor Day fires of 2020 showed us, first-hand how devastating climate chaos can be. As a survivor of the Almeda Fire, I returned to my decimated neighborhood to find my house standing, but nearly all my neighbors' houses gone, or damaged beyond repair. I helped with recovery and felt the pain of my neighbors and the dismay and anxiety in my daughter every time a fire was reported, she smelled smoke in the air, or simply walked out our front door and looked across the street. We stand at a climate crossroads as a state, a nation, and a planet. Will we take the bold action needed to meet this challenge and ensure a future for our children and grandchildren? Or will we let private interests and climate deniers delay and derail our efforts, dooming our children and grandchildren to an uncertain future where smoke from wildfires is the least of their problems? Thank you for your time and your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hogan M. Sherrow, Ph.D.

Director

Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee