

Submitter: Phillip Callaway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

February 15, 2023

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

My wife and I own 38 acres of biologically diverse woodlands in Linn County, near Sweet Home. Our woodlands are a mix of Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar, Oregon White Oak, and Oregon Ash. Many of our Pine and Cedar are known to be at least 80 years old.

I believe that we are in an all hands on deck moment to address climate change. Oregon has been a national leader in addressing the sources of greenhouse gas emissions, but it is not going to be enough to reduce emissions. We already know that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need to sequester as much carbon as possible.

Fossil fuel companies like to tout expensive, unproven technologies to sequester carbon. Oregon is blessed with some of the best carbon sequestration in the world in the form of its natural and working lands. To not take advantage of that capability, and enhance it, would be a huge and tragic missed opportunity.

My wife and I consider ourselves to be temporary caretakers of this land and we worry about what will happen here when we are gone. The 108 acre tree farm that surrounds us on two sides was sold to a developer who plans on converting the tree farm into a 15 home subdivision. On the other side is a commercial timber operation that uses intensive forest management (read clearcuts). The biodiversity on our land will be vulnerable to future development unless it is protected with a conservation easement. We hope that with the passage of this bill we will have the opportunity to protect the biodiversity of this land in perpetuity.

We ask that you please vote to pass SB 530.

Respectfully submitted,
Phillip and Karyn Callaway
Crawfordsville, OR