

Submitter: Susan Delventhal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

As a small acreage farmer in Oregon, my husband and I fully support the Natural Climate Solution Bill (SB 530). Organic farming since 2016, we have experienced the benefits of using farming techniques that minimize the disturbance and compaction of soil. Important - because 95% of all genetic information resides in the soil. We grow organic vegetables, berries, and fruit on our small farm using sustainable techniques such as planting cover crops, no tillage and low tillage, dry land farming, mulching, and crop rotation. All these techniques have resulted in robust production, retention of rich healthy soil, and increase in the diversity of living species on our farm. Having purchased this land from a couple that used harsh farming techniques and repeated chemical application, we have transformed this acreage in to a healthy, thriving, diverse, and productive small farm, serving others in our immediate area.

Living in the Chehalem Mountains makes farming especially difficult, but using these techniques, which are aspects of SB 530, we have been able to successfully grow food. Our water usage is minimal, relying on stored water in the soil from the winter months and heavily mulched plantings we are successful. We have no erosion and topsoil loss because we do not till using conventional methods. Douglas Fir trees surround our land and we have committed to keeping those trees in place knowing they play an important role in the overall health of the land and in sequestering greenhouse gasses.

Oregon must do more to slow the escalating climate crisis. The Natural Climate Solutions Bill is brilliant on so many levels, focusing on implementing sound science-based techniques and practices that will eliminate some of the nightmares of big agricultural farming, ranching, and logging practices. Funding, guidance, and technical support are necessary incentives to assist ranchers, foresters, and farmers in utilizing natural climate solutions. SB 503 is a win-win for the environment and our states' farmers, foresters, and ranchers, who at this time may not realize the positive outcomes an implementation of a Natural Climate Solutions Bill like this will have on their perspective businesses. Healthy soil, water, and air coupled with reduced cost, higher productivity, and financial and technical support will be the positive outcomes with the passage of SB 530. My husband and I fully support HB 530 - a natural climate solutions bill that makes sense.