

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

I am a resident in rural Yamhill County writing in support of SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions bill, because whatever opinions people might have about the future or the effects of climate change, I think most Oregonians are concerned – like myself - about increasing drought, wildfire damage and extreme weather events like storms and heatwaves. The potential for increasing firestorms like those in 2020 and for more small towns running critically low on water can be very frightening to rural Oregonians like me! Our family has done what we can, managing our small acreage of land and trees responsibly, planting to improve conditions for soil and wildlife and conserving as much water and energy as possible, including spending thousands of dollars on equipment and expert help to thin and prune our trees. Still, much of what is happening is beyond our control, so I agree that statewide strategies need to be studied, encouraged and, if found effective, implemented. And people like us and those with even fewer resources could use help to make helpful or needed changes to our properties and community spaces.

I was pleased to find several features in the available text of SB 530 that should make this bill appealing to many and worth bipartisan effort: 1. It seeks much of its funding from Federal and private resources, rather than relying solely on Oregon taxpayers 2. It provides the potential for a wide dispersal of funds to help people and organizations across different situations and different parts of our state instead of giving more money to a select few. 3. It establishes voluntary, incentivized programs - not mandates or regulations - to help Oregonians make desired changes, 4. It allows for a great deal of oversight and cost/benefit analysis to find effective, local solutions to the looming crisis of climate change.

Thank you for listening.