

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the committee,

My name is Ukiah Halloran-Steiner and I am a climate justice advocate with Sunrise Rural Oregon.

I have lived all of my 17 years of life on a small family farm outside of McMinnville in Yamhill County. I've grown up surrounded by the natural world in a way that many of my peers could never even imagine. I have core memories as a child of running through acres of forest and hay fields that were alive and vibrant and healthy. I have been so lucky to grow up in the environment that I did and I wish every child in Oregon had a similar opportunity.

In the past few years, I have seen my state burn around me. Climate change is here and the destruction of our planet is only getting worse. Here in Oregon, fires and storms are wrecking homes. People are dying in heat waves and farmers are losing their crops, their incomes, because of drought. I am saddened by the state of this world, especially knowing that these intensifying disasters are only going to worsen if drastic measures are not taken.

I do, at times, have hope. I have a vision that one day, my neighbors will once again be surrounded by thriving, green hay fields— not drought-stricken acres of dry, brown grass. But these dry, dead fields and charred forests are the realities that are on the line if you, our leaders, don't take immediate and bold action.

I support SB 530 because I believe that rural Oregon deserves climate justice. Oregon's Legislative leaders must take bold climate action that supports resilient land-use practices on rural farm and forest land across the state. I believe that this bill will set us on a path to the better world that I believe is possible.

Thank you,

Ukiah Halloran-Steiner (17)  
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