

Submitter: Pam Birmingham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

February 14, 2023

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support Senate Bill 530, Natural Climate Solutions

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

As a small forestland owner in the North Oregon Coast Range, a former Park Ranger and a real estate broker I urge you to support SB530. I have lived on my land for over 35 years and in the last three years the visible effects of climate change have become alarming. If we are to continue to have a timber industry we must mitigate climate change urgently. The cumulative effects of drought, heat domes, ice storms, fires etc are already weakening the health of the forests making them more susceptible to insects and diseases.

On a personal level I have tried for years to place a conservation easement on my land. The parcel is not large enough (19 acres) for the land conservancies to be able to help. Due to the IRS monitoring requirements it is very costly for the land conservancies to hold conservation easements. I know there are many other forestland owners like me who would like to find a mechanism to protect our older forests from harvest in perpetuity without seeking tax credits. SB 530 could provide a pathway to allow small forestland owners a modified conservation easement for carbon sequestration.

There are so many reasons to support this bill but I am sure the testimony of others will cover many of those. Please help us secure a livable planet for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. Thank you for your consideration of SB530.

Sincerely,

Pam Birmingham

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