



**Written testimony on behalf of Joseph Vaile, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center**  
**Senate Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Public Hearing: Senate Bill 530**  
**Monday, February 15, 2023**  
**8:00am**

Chairman Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 530 that would establish state policy on natural climate solutions.

My name is Joseph Vaile and I am the Climate Director at the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) in Ashland, Oregon. We are a forest, land and water conservation organization with over 10,000 members and supporters, many of which live in Southwest Oregon's Siskiyou and South Cascade Mountain Ranges. Our organization has expertise in forest conservation, fire ecology, climate adaptation, and forest resiliency. We work closely with many farmers, ranchers, and forestry practitioners. We are a part of several community and collaborative efforts to advance climate smart forest management and community fire protection efforts throughout southern Oregon and northern California.

We are writing to support Senate Bill 530. We are proud to be part of a broad coalition of local elected officials, farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and nonprofit organizations across Oregon who are eager to see the legislature advance Natural Climate Solutions and pass SB 530 this session.

Senate Bill 530 would encourage practices that sequester and store carbon in Oregon's natural and working lands. This bill also aims to make Oregon's lands and waters more resilient to climate-fueled drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures, which have become all too common in southern Oregon. Looking forward, it is projected to only get hotter and drier in our region of the state.

SB 530 will also provide the resources needed to implement and incentivize practices that would help lessen the impacts of climate change. At the same time, this bill would help ensure we are utilizing an untapped resource for climate mitigation - well managed and better protected natural and working lands.

Importantly, SB 530 best positions Oregon for federal funding. The recently passed Infrastructure Investment Act and Jobs and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) include funding for states to implement natural climate solutions. While SB 530 would create a source of state funding for voluntary actions to remove climate pollution and store it in natural and working lands, this funding would also leverage even more federal funding. For example, the IRA includes \$24 billion for climate-smart agriculture, conservation, and sustainable forestry.

SB 530 will be critical to help Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners lead on climate solutions and reward their stewardship. It will fund and direct state agencies to provide incentives and technical support to implement natural climate solutions. It will also invest in a comprehensive natural and working lands inventory and study opportunities for workforce development and training. KS Wild strongly supports SB 530 and urges the Committee to report out this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph E. Vaile".

Joseph Vaile  
Climate Director  
KS Wild  
Ashland, Oregon 97520