



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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February 15, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 530 – **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Amanda Sullivan-Astor. I am here on behalf of the Associated Oregon Loggers as their forest policy manager. AOL is the statewide trade association and voice of Oregon's firefighters, loggers, restoration contractors, reforestation companies and other forest operators and we cannot support SB 530 as it is currently written and urge your opposition to the bill.

Our primary concerns have to do with the bill's failure to recognize the entire carbon life cycle which should include the durable storage of carbon in forest products, the concept of carbon permanence in forests, the ability for sustained yield forest management to maximize net carbon benefits from working lands, issues with leakage and the negative externalities resulting from the failure to incorporate these concepts resulting in perceivable decreases to short and mid-term fiber supplies and the jobs they would otherwise support.

We are currently trying to address some of these concerns through our engagement on the existing Natural and Working Lands Advisory Committee of which this bill would codify, but find it challenging to bring our expertise and real life experience to the forefront due to the political make-up of the committee. Rather than having experts in the field, professional foresters, practitioners, landowner representatives and the workforce make up the majority of the committee, there are environmental lawyers and litigants, advocates and others who have never had to operationalize the practices they so desperately think should be put in place.

Finally, the bill fails to recognize other groups and programs across the Executive Branch and federal government that are already in place to achieve the policies of the state contemplated. AOL also sits on the DEQ biomass utilization work group which seeks to address our massive fuels build up in our forests by developing market-based solutions to utilize the material as a "climate smart" mechanism with additional benefits of reducing emissions for burning, increased work opportunities and rural economic development. Real solutions are being advanced in that work group because it is comprised of the experts and practitioners in the state that are best suited to try and solve these issues.

Thank you.

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