



MOUNTAIN GROVE CENTER

2828 Rancho Rd., Glendale, OR

Testimony Re: SB530 for Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Twila Jacobsen and a Board Member and Forestry Project Lead of Mountain Grove Center, 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 530.

The Mountain Grove Center has a long history of care and concern for the approximate 412 acres of forests, streams, meadows and associated resources with which we have been entrusted. The MGC Board in 2018 decided to embark on a small stand level forest restoration project using commercial thinning designed to meet both ecologic and economic objectives.

With the help of Marty Main of Small Woodland Services Inc. (SWS) and Don Hamann Logging, Inc., we have been able to consider and implement practices that are “climate-change sensitive”, most importantly promoting healthy, vigorous forests with a high degree of resistance and resilience to expected future increased climate-related stressors. Climate adaptation practices include: maintaining/promoting diverse tree species; accelerating development of older forest conditions; utilizing more frequent, lighter thinning and subsequent increased flexibility to respond to rapid ecosystem level changes; shifting species compositions to more drought and heat tolerant species (e.g. in this setting, less white fir, more Douglas-fir, pines and hardwoods), reducing the likelihood of high severity fire.

I support SB 530 after 30 years experiencing the limitations of our current market system for providing the economic reasoning for practicing forestry that emphasizes healthy forest and climate resilience. Supporting good forestry means we need highly skilled logging contractors who can be financially solvent by adding complexity to the labor and machinery needed for this type of harvest.

SB 530 will fund and direct state agencies to provide incentives and technical support to forest owners and also invest in workforce development and training. It will create a source of state funding for voluntary actions to promote climate sensitive forestry. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 530. Thank you for your time.