

February 15, 2023

Senate Committee on Natural Resources Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: SB 530 Support**

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

My name is Jeff Hammarlund. I am a retired professor of energy and climate policy here in Oregon. I am also a member of the Climate, Energy and Environment (CEE) Team of the [Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network](https://www.coinoregon.org) (<https://www.coinoregon.org>). As you probably know, COIN is a network of 45 grassroots Indivisible groups located in almost every legislative district in Oregon. I view COIN as a wonderful representation of grassroots democratic citizen engagement at its finest. I am testifying on behalf of myself but also on behalf on the Climate, Energy and Environment Team of COIN.

We have been following the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, including its excellent Natural and Working Lands Proposal released in 2021. We are pleased that SB 530 takes the conceptual framework developed by this Commission and converts it into legislative language that is ripe for support and passage. We urge the all the members of Senate Natural Resources Committee to do their part to ensure that this important bill passes out of committee and becomes state law during this session. This certainly should be a bi-partisan bill.

Many of us listened to the public testimony on SB 530 in your committee this morning. As we all heard and read from testimony offered by the representative of Pew Charitable Trust and many others, Oregon's natural and working lands and waters – stewarded by coastal and inland forestry, farming, fishing, ranching communities, and Tribal sovereigns to support jobs and unique lifeways across the state – are under threat. SB 530, in conjunction with some companion bills, offer a major contribution to the effort to effectively address this threat.

SB 530 establishes critical state policy regarding natural climate solutions (NCS) including implementing NCS strategies, investing in research to fill data gaps, and directing agencies to incentivize and implement NCS through various means and to incorporate NCS into their missions and programs. It gives the Oregon Global Warming Commission new authority, including the ability to establish a Natural and Working Lands Advisory Committee that will include representatives from Tribal governments, local governments, forest products interests/organizations; agricultural interests/organizations; environmental justice advocates, conservation advocates; and technical service providers.

By creating a source of state funding for voluntary actions to sequester climate pollution and store it in natural and working lands, SB 530 will simultaneously address climate change and help protect our state's natural resources. The very land management practices that support

carbon sequestration—such as cover crop planting, wetland restoration, and increasing logging rotations—also provide important co-benefits. As you have heard this morning, these co-benefits include enhanced soil health and productivity, wildfire and drought resilience, fish and wildlife habitat, reduced risk of flooding, clean and abundant drinking water, enhanced net earnings for landowners, and support for rural families eager to put food on their tables. We are pleased but not surprised to see the overwhelming support provided in oral and written testimony today.

I want to raise one more benefit of SB 530 – its potential to leverage significant federal funding for Oregon communities. As a former member of the professional staff of the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I was able to follow and contribute to the development of several provisions that were included in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It is quite likely that additional measures will be included in the 2023 Farm bill and the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. To make full use of these federal resources, Oregon will need to be prepared and able to offer coordinated local matching funds. SB 530 can help state agencies be prepared to provide assistance to landowners and other parties interested in accessing these federal funds.

The Climate, Energy and Environment Team of COIN is pleased to join the many owners and managers of farms, ranches and forests, elected officials, organizations, and coalitions supporting SB 530.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hammarlund, on behalf of the Climate, Energy and Environment Team of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)