



February 16, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Re: **Support for SB 530 – Natural Climate Solutions**

Chair Golden and Committee Members,

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers working with our federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

OACD supports SB 530 as a voluntary statewide program setting up natural climate solutions on natural and working lands to promote carbon sequestration and storage.

Conservation districts support farmers and ranchers by providing technical services on working lands to carry out practices envisioned in this legislation. In addition, districts work with state and federal partners to assist those landowners and operators in securing grants to accomplish the work. Some conservation districts, such as the Clackamas SWCD that I have been on the board of for 15 years, also provides grants and loans directly.

This bill would provide the potential for anticipated federal funds to be moved through existing state programs to provide capacity on the ground. Our role as districts is to provide the necessary technical assistance and education to farmers and ranchers. We are not regulatory--our role is to provide services and support. Our districts are generally co-located with NRCS personnel, and we can assist in getting those programs implemented as well as others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lee".

Jan Lee, Executive Director  
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