

Chair Golden, Vice-chair Girod, and Members of the Committee on Natural Resources,

Living on the coast, I'm experiencing increasingly intense and damaging storm surge, floods, and fires which are the combined effects effects of climate change and forest and wetland mismanagement.

I urge you to support SB 530 because it gets a foot in the door at solving those problems, and gives Oregon a chance to harness some of the \$30 billion made available by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for climate-smart agriculture, conservation and forestry.

Passed and implemented well, SB 530 will have the multiple co-benefits of creating a host of jobs, improving water quality and quantity, increasing food security, increasing community resilience, and could reduce production costs for farmers.

By including education, training and incentives, and being built around a cooperative approach with landowners, SB 530 is likely to both achieve significant positive results *and* be well-liked by people across Oregon. I checked out the submitted testimony and there is wide support for this bill from both rural and urban organizations and individuals all around the state!

I'd like echo some other commenters who I think bear repeating:

Roger Dorband of **Astoria**, who calls out that in addition to the positive steps in SB 530, the practice of clear-cutting should be ended. And that state funding for counties that currently rely on the timber tax must be revised. Clear cutting amounts to a huge release of previously stored carbon from trees and soil,* not to mention worsens landslides and flooding, especially in steep, hilly areas.**

Josie Koehne, a small forest owner from **Gaston**, who says "We need to build resilience in our forests. SB 530 will provide the technical assistance and incentives to improve our forests, and help them adapt to changing climate conditions."

Megan Kemple, who submitted a letter on behalf of **over 50 farms and ranches— from Wallowa to Medford**— who support SB 530 because of its promise of technical assistance and funding for smart agricultural practices including cover cropping, compost application, no till and reduced tillage, rotational grazing, silvopasture.

Oregon's legislative leaders should take bold climate action that supports resilient land-use practices not just because it will help secure a thriving future... but also because residents across the state need it now.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki
Tillamook County resident

*<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160415125925.htm#:~:text=FULL>

**<https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/forest-landslides%E2%80%99-frequency-size-influenced-more-road-building-logging-heavy-rain>