

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Ronald Rhew, I am a resident of Troutdale Oregon, just outside of the town of Springdale.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 530. I believe the bill will help promote carbon sequestration across the spectrum of land uses and improve resilience of Oregon's forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, and natural resource economies in the face of the advancing impact of climate change on Oregon's environment.

There are many reason for my support of SB 530. I am a father and a grandfather, and my children and grandchildren live here in Oregon. I am very concerned about their future welfare and the environmental conditions that they will be forced to live under, even with the actions contained in the proposed bill. The oil companies have long known that long-term use of their products jeopardizes the earth's atmosphere and eventually all life on the planet. Couple that with decade upon decade of environmental degradation from harmful, negligent, or willfully destructive land management activities, industrial pollution, population pressure etc., etc., and we have created the potential for calamitous results. Measures emphasized in this bill will begin to restore environmental functions, lost to the prior mentioned impacts, that will be necessary to offset the many impacts of climate change. Included in these benefits are the ability to maintain and increase our ability to produce food for local consumption, and protect existing and future access to clean drinking water.

Practices that sequester and store carbon, rebuild soils, restore adequate water tables, limit the extent of bare soil, reduce erosion, reduce fertilizer and pesticide use, and improve the condition of Oregon's forests also make our lands and waters more resilient to climate-fueled drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures. Further SB 530 will be critical to leveraging historic federal funding that can help Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners lead on climate solutions and reward their stewardship.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes roughly \$30 billion in incentives for climate-smart agriculture, conservation, and sustainable forestry. The legislature must make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to achieve our climate sequestration and resilience goals and ensure that communities with the greatest need can benefit from these funds. SB 530 will provide the resources needed to implement these practices

Science tells us that in order to avoid climate catastrophe, we must transform the way we use and manage our land, from how we grow our food, to how we manage our forests and wetlands. Advancing Natural Climate Solutions will be key to achieving net zero emissions by no later than 2050, which is what the IPCC has concluded is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Given the choice of maintaining the status quo, or starting to make changes necessary to ensure a livable future for Oregon families, I support the latter. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 530. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ronald Rhew (aka Dad, and Grandpa)