

Submitter: Gail Sabbadini

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Hello members of the Senate Committee of Natural Resources, my name is Gail Sabbadini. I am a retired field ecologist and biology educator. I strongly support the urgently needed Oregon Senate Bill 530 for natural climate solutions.

All Oregonians and people of bordering states will benefit from the implementation of the components of SB 530. Providing incentives and information to people who own Oregon's forested properties and farmlands will encourage them to protect and increase natural carbon sequestration through regenerative farming and ranching techniques and through allowing trees to continue growing.

Intact forests which include mature trees hold massive amounts of carbon which is not released to the atmosphere as long as the trees are kept alive, and the trees will continuously absorb more carbon dioxide as they grow. In addition to this wonderful service that mature forests do for free, they also stabilize soil from erosion, hold and purify groundwater, provide wildlife habitat and give us a place for recreation and connection with nature's beauty.

Protecting intact mature forests in the Pacific Northwest from aggressive timber harvest is about saving the most immediate and most economical defense we all have against increased carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Forests absorb about a third of all the human produced carbon dioxide emissions each year. By encouraging longer timber harvest rotations, decreasing deforestation and allowing mature forests to continue to grow SB 503 would increase atmospheric carbon dioxide sequestration and also help decrease the large proportion of Oregon's carbon dioxide emissions coming from Oregon timber harvesting operations.

I appreciate your efforts in support of SB 530 since this legislation will seek to provide funding to protect and increase active carbon sequestration capacity for the improved health of all Oregonians and our planet.