

Submitter: Candace Bonner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 530.

I am a small forest owner living on 109 acres of mixed forest, crossed by a large salmon spawning stream, and bordered by both Federal and industrial timberlands and by other small landowners.

I have walked the steep trails to the stream almost every day for over 20 years, in all weather, all seasons, watching day to day and year to year as climate change affects the forest and stream. The forest has not recovered from the heat dome of 2021. Cedar and hemlock are particularly suffering. California is losing its fir trees to climate change, and Oregon is losing her Western red cedar.

Climate change is here, it is real, it is a true emergency and If unchecked, it will progress to make much of the planet uninhabitable. Climate migration will be overwhelming. In spite of this, Green house gas emissions are still rising. We are not meeting the emission reduction goals we set state-wide, nation-wide, nor internationally.

And now Senate Bill 530. Oregon, with our acres and acres of forest, and our rich agricultural lands, is spectacularly situated to harness the ability of natural and working lands to capture CO2 and sequester carbon. The Natural Climate Solutions bill provides a roadmap to realizing that potential and optimizing the climate change mitigating effects of our natural and working lands.

As a small forest owner, I urge you to support SB 530. We need to stop giving mere lip service to the climate emergency. We need to act now, and we need to optimize our natural climate solutions as we continue the struggle to reduce emissions. Of the many measures we must take to slow the progression of climate change, the Natural Climate Solutions bill gives us the most effect for the least pain.

Thank you

Add: I apologize that when I was called upon to speak today, and unmuted my microphone, I got a Team Microsoft message telling me I had to download an additional app to access the microphone. I listened to the ongoing testimony, and endorse the testimony of the other supporters of this bill.