

Dear members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Emily Stebbins, and I'm a teacher and climate justice activist in Portland. I'm writing to request your support for SB 530 (Natural Climate Solutions), HB 3016 (Establish Community Green infrastructure Grant Program), and SB522 (Modernize the Oregon Global Warming Commission).

SB530 funds natural climate change solution projects, and establishes a process to inventory carbon sequestration and storage on natural and working lands. These funds will incentivize landowners to adopt practices that increase carbon storage. With this fund, the state could disperse federal funds and future state funds to help rural people take care of their land for the benefit of all. Natural climate solutions are a low-cost, high benefit way to store carbon and help landowners throughout Oregon improve their land stewardship.

HB 3016 would establish a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program. Green infrastructure includes plant and soil systems, permeable surfaces, and stormwater harvesting and reuse. It provides environmental, economic and social benefits, including resilience to climate change, stormwater management, air quality benefits, noise abatement, energy savings and economic development opportunities. The bill also directs ODF to acquire and maintain a statewide urban tree canopy assessment tool and develop an Emerald Ash Borer assistance program. As extreme climate events become more frequent, all Oregon communities need to invest in resilience. This bill will make that possible.

SB 522 makes important administrative changes to the OGWC, including updating its name to the Oregon Climate Action Commission, to better reflect our understanding of climate disruption and the action needed to face it. It strengthens Oregon's emission targets and adds two new voting members to the Commission, to represent Environmental Justice communities and youth. It adds additional agency representatives as non-voting members to better coordinate the state's efforts, and clarifies the role of the Commission in overseeing the progress being made by state agencies in meeting climate goals. We are in a climate emergency and this bill helps give the government the information and tools needed to make better decisions and take more decisive action to address climate change.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Emily Stebbins