

Submitter: Catherine Miller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 530.

Please pass this vital resource commitment to improving the resilience and sustainability of Oregon's wild lands and natural habitats. Allowing longer rotation cycles for Timber management and better use of investments in each of Oregon's public lands would be a positive outcome. There is a need to integrate advanced mapping data and plan for future investments, including but not limited to fish habitat protection, and fish migration - Fishing is one vital resource that is in peril. Commercial and sports fishing and native First people are all stakeholders. We need to take a view of creating more solutions to the rapid challenges of climate change. Creating better communications within the state agencies and having local investments in detailed mapping, projects and deliverables are critical. We cannot afford to lose this opportunity. This would allow personnel to be in control of the planning and outcomes, stakeholder management, and solutions. The fire cycles and climate change are directly intertwined. We need our Forestry board to be more effective. We need a more realistic tool that can be achieved by benchmarking. There are invasive species and there are challenges that we have ignored to our discredit. That is why I am speaking out now.

There are options that can be leveraged with capital that will create jobs and maintain sustainable Forestry. and carbon sequestration is an emerging market that will allow outside agencies and investments in land protection. I am a former Forest Service employee who worked in fire fighting. We need to modernize our approach to land management and this bill needs your support. There are no margins for error as the overheated atmosphere compounds cycles of evaporation and moisture. We need systems thinking that can move Oregon to a more proactive approach in this shared resource.

This measure would allow us to move forward with a science-based approach. We need a longer-term business model.

This is once in a lifetime to bring Oregon's Fish and Wildlife agencies and all rural Oregonians Related department resources that will link science and strategic investments in this bill. Thank you for your consideration.