

Submitter: Robert Wright  
On Behalf Of: Pacific CLEAN of Oregon  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

As a retired CPA, I understand the value of a good investment. That's why I am writing to urge you to appropriate \$20 million to fund SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions Act, This modest investment will generate benefits many times greater, in my view.

I understand economic benefits.

SB 530 positions Oregon to offer financial incentives for voluntarily managing farms, forests, ranches and natural lands for carbon sequestration. Testimony at the committee hearing showed a lot of rural Oregonians are ready to do the work. Voluntarily. Rural communities will see substantial economic gains from SB 530.

Better timber management practices will add jobs in timber communities and produce more timber, increasing income in areas where that is sorely needed. Improved land management will increase yields and income in farming communities. More land will return to productive use as soils retain more water, helping to mitigate our extended drought and amplifying that additional income.

I also understand the value of leverage.

Under SB 530, state funds will be leveraged, as the bill will position our state government to bring Federal funding and other resources into Oregon to amplify government help for people in rural communities who are eager to improve their lives. Remember, participation is voluntary.

I understand the need for accountability.

Carbon sequestration/storage goals will be reviewed and updated as more is learned. Regular reports to the legislature on use of allocated funds will be required.

I see the pressing need to address climate challenges.

People all over Oregon are seeing and experiencing the harms that have long been predicted to come from climate change. But, the harms are hitting harder and coming sooner than we thought they would. So, public opinion is shifting, with the majority now asking for governments to do more to address climate change.

SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions Act, is Oregon's response.

The response is significant, starting with establishing state policy regarding natural climate solutions, then preparing baseline metrics for net carbon sequestration and storage in natural lands, and followed by establishing carbon uptake and storage goals for our state and launching study of workforce training programs needed to

support adoption of natural climate solutions.

#### Solutions for Oregon

I believe that Oregon has great potential for carbon uptake and storage but that is not well known. This bill will allow Oregonians and our state agencies to explore and quantify that potential, and begin charting a path forward. All while bringing welcome economic gains to rural communities.

The Global Warming Commission, Department of Energy and other departments must be properly funded to achieve the outcomes I have described. And I believe those outcomes will be very good for my fellow Oregonians, in the short term and the long term. That's why I'm asking the Joint Ways and Means Committee to allocate \$20 million for SB 530.

Thank you.