

Submitter: Bettina von Hagen  
On Behalf Of: EFM  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

EFM is a forestland management and advisory company that manages over 200,000 forested acres across Oregon, Washington and California. Our strategy prioritizes long-term social and ecological value alongside financial returns. This approach considers the whole value of the forest to include timber, conservation, carbon, biodiversity, clean water, rural livelihoods, tribal values, recreational access and more. Investment in watershed health is critical to realizing this vision. I am writing to urge you to include the investment of \$5M for the Natural and Working Lands Fund in OWEB's budget, as included in the Governor's recommended budget.

The NWL Fund provides incentives and technical support to help landowners and managers like EFM adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands. The NWL Fund invests in existing programs and projects within state agencies, including programs that existed in statute without funding. We see this as a commonsense investment in Oregon's climate resiliency. Our forests and farms are on the front lines of climate change, and the same silvicultural and agricultural practices that mitigate climate change help forests and farms be more resilient to climate impacts.

Continuity of this funding is critical. With funding lapses and uncertainty at the federal level, it is more critical than ever that Oregon provide a stable framework for this important work. When funding is available one year and not the next, interest in programs decreases, and it becomes difficult for potential applicants to plan strategically. In our experience, proactive projects that are developed under a strategic plan are far more effective and impactful than reactive projects developed in response to budget swings.

We strongly urge you to support the inclusion of the \$5M investment in the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget.

Sincerely,

Bettina von Hagen, CEO  
EFM Investments and Advisory