

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
SUBJECT: Support SB 1590

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the committee,

My name is Will Currell. I am a hunter, an angler, a trail runner, and a co-owner of all of our public lands. My food, my wellbeing, and most of my enjoyments in life come from our public lands. I am in strong support of SB 1590.

The federal government's attempts to sell public lands in Oregon will take them from the generations of hunters and anglers who have cared for them and called them home.

I learned to hunt here in Oregon and I butchered my first elk in the woods of the Mount Hood National Forest. I hunt and fish on lands that Oregonians have been hunting and fishing on for over 160 years. That lifestyle is at risk, and this Bill is a significant step toward protecting the hunting and fishing community here in Oregon. All the hunters I know from Nehalem, to Portland, to John Day see the federal government's attempts to sell off public land as a direct threat to our way of life.

The protections in SB 1590 should be viewed as the minimum protections necessary to save the land within our state's borders. I urge you to defend these public lands with every tool at your disposal. The efforts to sell off our lands are not going anywhere, and it's our duty to continue to fight for them.

Over the past months, outdoorsmen across the state and across the country have been writing letters, calling legislators, taking off work to testify, and begging their representatives to protect the land that they love.

If we don't fight to protect our public lands, the next generation may not have the chance to walk through the forests, or to hunt and fish our public lands. I urge you to support SB 1590, and to fight for the lands we call home.

Sincerely,

Will Currell