

Columbia Land Trust is a member-supported not-for-profit conservation group dedicated to conserving the nature of the northwest for people and nature. We have 3,700 members who support our work through annual contributions, volunteering, or improving the habitat in their own backyards. More than 5,000 Oregon families have signed up for our Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

We know that responsible stewardship of Oregon's natural resources results in sequestration of significant amounts of carbon. We and our members are taking action every day to do so. Therefore we are enthusiastic supporters of HB 2020 which would meaningfully advance a carbon program in Oregon. Thank you for your hard work in bringing this legislation forward.

However, we are disappointed that this legislation does not include a dedicated investment in rural and natural lands. Oregon is uniquely suited, with our tremendous natural resources, with the opportunity to sequester significant amounts of carbon. This legislation ought to acknowledge this opportunity and dedicate investment dollars to sequestering carbon in our rural and natural resource lands.

Columbia Land Trust and land trusts across the state have the opportunity to access federal forest conservation funds, but only with state or local matching funds. Creation of a dedicated natural and rural lands investment will allow Oregon to access federal funds that are otherwise going to states that have state forest conservation programs. HB 2020 offers the opportunity for Oregon to receive its fair share of federal forest conservation funds.

Also, we are strong supporters of the provisions in HB 2020 which provide opportunities for Indian tribes, members of impacted communities and businesses owned by women or members of minority groups to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Again, thank you for your hard work to bring this legislation forward.

My best

Glenn Lamb

Glenn Lamb | Executive Director
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