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February 11, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Testimony in support of SB 1530/climate action now

**On behalf of Columbia Land Trust, I am writing to express our strong support for climate action now, and specifically for SB 1530.**

Columbia Land Trust works in a service territory that stretches from the Pacific Ocean 200 miles east to the John Day River, on both sides of the Columbia. We have thousands of supporters, and offices in Astoria, Hood River and Portland, Oregon, as well as Vancouver, Washington.

The majority of landowners we work with live and work in rural communities as do many of our members. We and our partner landowners are already seeing the effects of climate change in devastating fires, droughts, and shifts in the seasons.

A rapidly changing climate driven by the burning of fossil fuels is already undermining the natural systems that support our communities and livelihoods. Rising temperatures and changing water flows threaten our farms, forests, ranches, orchards, and vineyards, harm fish and wildlife habitat, and jeopardize outdoor recreation. We need to shift to clean energy, and SB 1530 will facilitate that.

At the same time, our work on the land makes clear that **Oregon's natural systems offer an opportunity to help solve climate impacts in a cost-effective and immediate way.** Nature—our trees, soils, water and wetlands—can play an important role in sequestering carbon, storing carbon, and providing pathways for adaptation and survival.

**SB 1530 recognizes the importance of our natural and working lands in providing natural climate solutions. It invests in rural communities by dedicating 25% of proceeds for natural and working lands.**

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As a state with significant natural resources, Oregon has a unique opportunity to position itself at the forefront of a new low-carbon economy. Natural climate solutions – like conservation, restoration and improved land management – are a critical, and cost-effective solution which can mitigate a significant portion of the overall problem, and complement the cap and trade system.

Oregon's uniquely rich and varied natural and working landscape can be part of the solution. We have more than 30 million acres of forests, comprising some of the best carbon sinks in the world, and more than 16 million acres of farms that could efficiently sequester carbon in their soils. We have the opportunity to invest in our land and water for immediate benefits to both rural and urban communities.

SB 1530 is an important opportunity to leverage our existing carbon storage resources and access the expertise of rural landowners for future adaptation and mitigation.

**SB 1530 provides Just Transition investment to help communities acquire the skills needed to cope with climate change, and prepare for new careers in climate-adapted technologies.**

Rural landowners are already paying the price of climate change in devastating fires, droughts, and shifts in the seasons. A comprehensive climate bill that includes investments in rural communities and working lands is an opportunity to build a better environment and economy in Oregon- from the coast to the high desert.

We applaud all of the work that you and others have done to create a bill that directly addresses the issues of climate change for all Oregonians. **We urge the legislature to pass SB 1530 this session to reduce carbon emissions and catalyze investments in natural climate solutions.**

Sincerely,



Glenn Lamb, Executive Director

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