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Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Testimony on SB 1530-27

Submitted by Amelia Porterfield, Senior Policy Advisor

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Amelia Porterfield, Senior Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TNC has over 80,000 supporters across the state and members in every county. Our staff, based in communities around Oregon, work collaboratively with tribes, agencies, elected officials, private landowners, businesses, and natural resource stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to the major challenges facing people and nature.

Communities across the state are feeling the effects of climate change. We work with agricultural partners who experience increased fires, extreme temperatures, droughts and floods that damage their crops and risk the economic strength of our Oregon's rural communities. If we don't act, the impact on Oregon's lands, waters and communities that rely on agriculture and other natural resource-based economies will be at even greater risk.

We continue to encourage the legislature to pass a strong cap and invest bill that cuts emissions in an efficient, economy-wide program that is based on the best available science, to help Oregon meet its carbon reduction goals and make much needed investments throughout Oregon.

A few weeks ago, I testified to changes we'd hoped to see to LC 19 regarding natural gas treatment, the transportation sector, and offsets language. We appreciate the bill authors' attention to those issues and note the improvement in each of those sections reflected in the - 27 amendments. We are pleased to see the continuation of investment in natural and working lands and wildfire mitigation, which play an important role in sequestering carbon and reducing emissions.

With these adjustments, we think this bill is ready to move forward. Years of robust discussion on this issue have provided the opportunity for communities across the state and Oregonians from different backgrounds to weigh in on the policy.

Thank you for your continued work to craft this bill. We urge your swift action to pass it this session.