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TESTIMONY –
SB 541 – Policy on Greenhouse Gas Sequestration
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
March 30, 2021

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tom Sharp. I reside in Burns, Oregon and currently serve as the President of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA). Representing one of Oregon's largest agricultural sectors, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) encompasses members across the state with cattle and calves in every one of Oregon's 36 counties. OCA submits this testimony in support of SB 541.

A tremendous amount of science, planning, project effort, landowner stewardship, and budget expenditure are invested in natural resource management efforts to achieve healthy land and water ecosystems and for the restoration of degraded conditions amongst Oregon's forests, grasslands, rangelands, and waters. These efforts provide significant contributing benefit and should be accounted for when determining progress towards the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, carbon sequestration, and atmospheric carbon emission reduction.

Managing for healthy lands and waters for effective carbon sequestration and reduced emissions also provides other important "win-win" benefits by providing healthy habitats essential for the protection of a multitude of wildlife species, the mitigation of catastrophic wildfires in our forests and rangelands, the sustainment of Oregon's agricultural economies and our rural communities dependent upon productive natural resources, and the general public's desired outdoor enjoyment and recreational use.

Oregon Cattlemen's Association appreciates the recognition and inclusion of the contributing benefits of effective natural resource carbon sequestration tools by the members of this committee and the sponsors of SB 541.

Thank you for accepting this testimony for the record.

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