



KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1265 • Port Orford OR • 97465

February 3, 2022

Re: Support for SB 1546

Dear Oregon legislators:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, based in Curry County, Oregon. Our group has more than 400 members who are concerned about habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife. We strongly support passage of SB 1546 and the funding request from the Governor that would create a new Elliott State Research Forest, managed by Oregon State University.

The legislation is the product of years of work by diverse stakeholders, including conservation groups, tribes, recreational groups, timber interests, and counties and will help create a better future for this place that is important to local communities and also for the natural environment that Oregonians cherish.

The new Elliott State Research Forest will help to secure important environmental protections, including protection for more than 90% of the Elliott's mature forests, which help to provide habitat for threatened marbled murrelets, spotted owls, and coho salmon. It will also create a management framework that will help to ensure conservation of the Elliott's important values into the future.

Nearly 95 percent of the forests of Oregon's Coast Range have already been clear-cut. With this bill you have the opportunity to help end decades of conflict over the Elliott, to ensure strong environmental protections for remaining old-growth forest, and to advance important research, strong accountability and public ownership into the future.

We hope you can take action on this important bill. Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Vileisis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Vileisis

President, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society