

Submitter: ray seidler
On Behalf Of: humanity
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Measure: SB1534

Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery:

I strongly support SB1534 that brings carbon sequestration as a policy matter of the State of Oregon. I am a retired professor of Microbiology from Oregon State University and a former senior research scientist with the US EPA. Now retired, I serve as science advisor for several Southern Oregon nonprofit organizations. I also live in rural Oregon, outside the City limits of Ashland/Medford and we own a small lavender farm business. I have a well that supplies water for my home.

This winter continues the drought and even more elevated daily temperatures. Last summer several of my neighbors had to drill a new well and/or brought in plastic storage reservoirs and commercially delivered water supplies. This is a scary time for those of us rural Oregonians who rely on underground sources of well water. Without a reliable water supply, what happens to the value of our home and property? What happens to those public organizations that rely upon us all paying property taxes that support our schools and many other services if our properties become worthless? There is a direct relationship between drought relief, modulating temperatures, and agricultural practices that will remove or sequester carbon from the atmosphere and return it to the ground to form healthy soils. Land owners will be heroes for participating in such practices.

For all aspects of this bill to be fully successful in bringing healthy soil ecosystems to natural and working lands it is essential we bring as many land owners as possible into a carbon sequestration program. This necessitates a coherent, consistent educational message as well as specialized farming equipment (no till drills, a means to terminate cover crop growth, etc.) and a financial incentive to join the carbon sequestration program.

This bill, coupled with adequate funding and Agency support (OWEB, OAHP, OSU extension scientists, Soil water Conservation Districts), is poised to bring all the wonderful healthy soil benefits to rural Oregonians that work our lands. This bill is an incredible win win situation for the legislature to pass, for all land owners to benefit from, and will help support the needs of many underrepresented Oregonians because of the numerous co-benefits associated with practices that sequester carbon. Bravo to those who have written and/or support this bill!

Sincerely,

Ray and Julia Seidler
Ashland, Oregon