

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

2/4/2022

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

I am writing on behalf of Verdant Phoenix Farm in strong support of SB 1534, the Natural and Working Lands bill, and the -2 Amendment. This bill lays the foundation for the creation of programs to increase carbon sequestration and resilience on Oregon's natural and working lands.

I am a low income woman who has been an urban farmer for over 15 years. I teach for Oregon State University Extension Service in several counties in Southern Oregon. I teach about Carbon Sequestration as one of the key aspects of building healthy soil to reduce the use of water, eliminate the need for pesticides, and increase the nutrients within the food we grow. These are all good impacts from carbon sequestration!

On my farm, I have seen first-hand that carbon sequestration has reduced my irrigation needs- which helped our small business survive the devastating drought in our area – when our irrigation was literally turned off!! I have also noticed that my farm does not have run-off to nearby streams, and has reduced pest pressures. All of these factors have meant less expenses and more profit for my family business.

It is critical that we have support for carbon sequestration from every angle. **Please support this common sense solution to so many challenges farmers and other rural, low income communities are facing these days.**

Please do all you can to advance SB 1534.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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