

Submitter: Pamela Keller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

Senate Bill 1534 takes the important step of including land management in policy to encourage and enhance carbon sequestration. Land management practices sequester less than direct emission capture, but for far less cost. Most important it has multiple benefits. Practices that work include grassing waterways, planting trees, and protecting soil. The benefits include more water retention, less soil erosion and fewer landslides, cooler urban areas, and better habitats for all: soil microbes, fish, wildlife, and people! Oregon forests excel at sequestering carbon. They are some of the world's best, and most valuable, carbon sinks. Oregon crop and grassland soils are capable of storing much more carbon. Legislation is crucial to success. Technical assistance and incentives are necessary to initiate and maintain land management practices that work. My husband and I, as professional Soil Scientists, have worked across all parts of Oregon and Idaho, for over 40 years. We've seen the impact of both good (a dry stream flowing again!) and bad (tons ending up in roadside ditches) soil management. We are enjoying retirement on our 19 acres of woodland and pasture between Lebanon and Sweet Home. We would like to improve our little piece of earth as much as possible, leaving it healthier, more productive and sustainable for future generations. Even though we have some training in land management, we would love to have programs, advice and assistance available to help us. Thank you for your consideration and, we hope, support for SB 1534.