

Submitter: Allan Branscomb

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1534

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

February 7, 2022

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

I am writing to express strong support of SB 1534, the Natural and Working Lands bill, and the -2 Amendments. This bill lays the foundation for the creation of programs to address multiple crises now afflicting agriculture in Oregon, of which drought is a leading example.

In agriculturally significant areas of Oregon, drought is becoming permanent and structural, and is amplifying social conflict, farm failures, and ecological damage.

At the same time, however, tools are available to us that can make startling change. During last June's heat dome event during which the air temperature in northeast Oregon was 116, the temperature of soil on a ranch managed with regenerative agricultural practices was 88 degrees. At the same time, the temperature of the dirt in an area that they had not yet regenerated was 128. Stream flows in the regenerated areas were significantly higher even in summer.

Temperature differences of 40 degrees are produced often according to farmers and ranchers who are regenerating their soils.

SB1534 will gather necessary information and allow producers to educate each other and the public at large to the value of established methods that improve farm profits and farm survival by restoring ecological health.

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