



Oregon Legislative Assembly
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 7, 2022

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives,

We are Oregon forestland owners/managers and forestry professionals writing 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, including forest lands.

There is broad consensus among a wide array of stakeholders that natural and working lands are a *crucial* piece of ensuring a safe and resilient climate for Oregonians. This bill will make sure Oregon is investing in protecting rural economies, fish and wildlife, and drinking water supplies as we navigate changing conditions.

Carbon sequestration supports local economies, especially for timber-dependent communities in rural parts of the state. The bill will pave the way for a strong, incentive-based program to help small forest owners thrive and make sure forestlands can remain forestlands!

Practices which promote carbon sequestration have numerous other benefits including: increased water retention and soil health; reduced risk of erosion and flooding; drinking water source protection; increased fiber production; increased wildfire resilience; better fish and wildlife habitat; and improved air quality.

This bill ensures that stakeholders are consulted and listened to as work on natural and working lands progresses in Oregon! This is key to ensuring the greatest number of landowners and managers receive the support they need to maintain forestlands and implement management practices that increase carbon sequestration. The bill prioritizes historically underrepresented communities, including rural and tribal communities and communities with limited infrastructure.

Decisions related to natural and working lands should be made using comprehensive, science-backed data. This bill will increase research and data needed to make informed and impactful land management decisions.

What's good for the land is good for production. Please support and do all you can to advance SB 1534.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Signed by:

Arbor House Tree Farm, Forest Grove

Bugni Forest & Tree Farm, Estacada

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Beavercreek

Echo Hills Tree Farm, Philomath

Hyla Woods, Portland

Kareol Woodlands, Wallowa

Paz Forestry, Springfield

Pilgrim's Pause (a family owned forest), Corbett

Springboard Forestry, Timber

Trillium Forest Farm, Eagle Creek

Zena Forest, Salem

Forest Stewards Guild, State-wide