

February 8, 2022

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

My name is Twila Jacobsen and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing on behalf of Mountain Grove Center (MGC), a 501(c)3 non-profit with 420 acres of forest, riparian area and meadows in southern Douglas County. As a Board member and Chair of our Forestry Committee, I write 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.

SB 1534 is rooted in the voluntary stewardship of our land and water, and lays the foundation for a voluntary program that links economic viability with stewardship of the land. At Mountain Grove Center we have voluntarily established forest and land practices with the goal of establishing a long term, viable forest and riparian ecosystem in order to provide habitat and sustainable forest products, including logs. We are a sanctuary for the wildlife, plants and humans in need of intact natural forests and a demonstration site of ecological forestry practices.

SB 1534 lays the foundation for the state to provide financial incentives and a robust, knowledgeable technical assistance system to support farmers and ranchers. MGC would benefit from the assistance and support as we support the future viability of our forest and land.

Please support and do all you can to advance SB 1534.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Twila Jacobsen, Board Treasurer and Forest Committee Chair

Mountain Grove Center

Eugene, Oregon