February 8, 2022

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
900 Court St. NE, HR B
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1534

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports SB 1534 which would increase carbon sequestration on natural and working lands in Oregon. While we prefer the bill as introduced, we still support the bill moving forward with the –2 amendment.

The climate emergency is a real and present threat to our communities and economy. We have experienced the impacts in Oregon in the form of extreme heat, drought, wildfires and smoke events. Frontline communities here and worldwide, including Black and Indigenous people, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, low-income individuals, labor and workers, people living with disabilities, youth, elders, and individuals experiencing homelessness are disproportionately affected by this crisis. We have learned over the years through firsthand experience that restoring, protecting, and actively managing our urban natural resources in Portland – including rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, trees, and unique habitats – provides multiple benefits, including mitigating risks like flooding, sequestering carbon, and building resilience to extreme heat. In setting up a statewide program for carbon sequestration on natural and working lands that includes urban lands and watersheds, SB 1534 will help frontline communities throughout the state realize these multiple benefits while gaining additional insight into how more carbon-focused management of our lands in all geographies of the state can help tackle the climate crisis.

The City of Portland urges your support of SB 1534. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov or at 503-823-6726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Director

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