



February 8, 2022

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

Chair Golden and members of the committee:

Sustainable Northwest is writing to express our strong support for SB 1534 -2, and to respectfully request that you pass this critical legislation during the 2022 legislative session.

In 2020 the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) was directed to develop statewide goals for carbon sequestration and storage on Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on the best available science. OGWC engaged a wide array of stakeholders to gather input on what landowners and managers will require to ensure these outcomes. Following this extensive and transparent public process, SB 1534 was drafted to guide innovative voluntary actions that support management of Oregon's natural and working lands as a resilient and robust carbon sink, while supporting the health of our economy and communities.

The bill does the following:

1. Defines natural and working lands in statute.
2. Declares that it is the policy of the state to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in, and the resilience of, natural and working lands of this state.
3. Directs the OGWC to create a Natural and Working Lands Advisory Committee.
4. Directs OSU's Institute for Natural Resources to a) develop a net carbon sequestration inventory for natural and working lands, b) develop metrics for carbon sequestration in natural and working lands, and c) study workforce and economic development potential of strategies to increase carbon sequestration in natural and working lands.
5. Requires the OGWC to report to the Oregon Legislature.

These outcomes have been consistently identified by landowners, scientific experts, advocates, and legislators as necessary steps to inform strategic investments in voluntary actions and incentives to enhance the management and climate resilience of our state's natural and working lands. For these reasons, we urge you to pass SB 1534 -2. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dylan Kruse  
Vice President  
Sustainable Northwest