

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

February 8, 2022

Oregon Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 1534, the Natural and Working Lands Bill, and request that you pass this legislation during the 2022 legislative session. Although I am a member of several organizations promoting measures to strengthen protection of environmental conditions in Oregon, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon sequestration, I am writing this as a citizen of Oregon, and a grandfather.

The intent of SB 1534 is to establish a framework to evaluate the best methods to capture and retain atmospheric carbon, sequestering it long-term in Oregon's forests and soils. Programs will be developed from this information enabling Oregon's natural and working lands to be managed voluntarily as a resilient and robust carbon sink while supporting the health of our economy and communities and enhancing social equity and quality of life for Oregonians. The bill does the following:

- Define Natural and Working Lands/Waters (N&WLW) in Oregon statute.
- Declares that it is the policy of the State to advance N&WLW strategies that are designed based on equity and land manager interests and resourced with incentives and technical assistance support.
- Directs the Commission to create an Advisory Group to inform its N&WLW efforts including the provisions included in the bill.
- Directs the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University to support the Commission in the: (a) development of metrics and a baseline evaluation of carbon storage; (b) advancement of a N&WLW carbon inventory; and (c) completion of a N&WL Workforce and Economic Development study.
- Directs agencies to report on metrics and the inventory.
- Changes the Commission's deadline for its Biennial Report to the Legislature and adding responsibility for reporting on progress toward the N&WL targets and metrics.

Oregon can and should make investments in the future to protect rural economies, fish and wildlife, and drinking water supplies as we navigate changing environmental conditions. Utilizing our diverse landscapes as a tool to mitigate and provide resilience from the effects of climate change is the best way forward.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ronald Rhew, Troutdale, OR