



APPLEGATE PARTNERSHIP, INC.

dba Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council

P.O. Box 899 | Jacksonville, OR 97530 | 541) 899-9982

apwcbod@apwc.info | www.apwc.info

a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

February 7, 2023

Reference SB530, The Natural Climate Solutions Bill

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

The Applegate Partnership was established in 1992 by local citizens, private forestry and federal land managers to find solutions for conflicts in wildlife and forest issues. At the behest of the State of Oregon and the development of the Oregon Plan, the Applegate Partnership, began engaging in watershed assessment and aquatic restoration projects as the Applegate River Watershed Council. The movement for whole watershed land restoration sparked a need to reestablish the deep-seated forestry knowledge the board held and the aquatic restoration expertise the staff and funding supported. The organization formally changed our DBA name in 2008 to the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) to unite upland and aquatic programs.

The APWC Mission is: To promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being.

I write as Vice-Chair of the APWC Board, a consulting forester, to express the APWC Board's support for SB530, The Natural Climate Solutions Bill. Living in the Applegate Valley, a community comprised of a diversity of rural landowners who directly experience drought, wildfires and extreme weather that global warming is imposing on us, we consider ourselves to be on the front lines of the climate crisis. By developing programs that offer incentives to rural Oregonians engaged in forestry and agriculture, state agencies can both further the statewide goal of contributing our share to addressing this global climate crisis and benefit rural communities economically.

We therefore urge our statewide legislators to take the steps necessary to promote mitigation of the crisis both through reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and incentivizing the sequestration (capture and storage) of carbon in the atmosphere in our natural and working lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Russell

Vice-Chair

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