

Submitter: Sarah Deumling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Having grown up on a family farm in the Willamette Valley and now now, since 1987, been the owner/manager of a family forest in Polk County I am very happy to support SB 530. It is a very gentle bill coming decades too late but recognizing the urgency of rethinking how we treat the land which sustains us - so actually how we treat ourselves as Oregonians. Industrial agricultural and forestry practices have been welcomed by most land managers since at least the 1950s of my childhood, in a sense understandably because they provided more income while making it possible to manage more acres with less labor. The downsides were less immediately apparent - the depletion of soil and water resources (our capital) and an only slightly less evident connection to climate change and species decline.

I very much hope that this bill is not only passed but actually succeeds in what it promises to do - to protect and regenerate our natural and working lands before it is too late to ensure future generations an abundant life in as beautiful an Oregon as the one I knew as a child.

My one caveat is that some of us have actually been putting into practice all the goals listed in this bill for many years. I can speak personally only for our forestry operation from which we absolutely thought we could make a living when we began in 1984. From the outset we have put into practice all the suggested regenerative practices (and many more) out of a strong conviction that it was the right thing to do. It has been rewarding in many ways but financially exhausting - old cars, often no medical insurance, no vacations, etc. It is just more expensive to "do it right". The fact that SB 530 provides some public financial assistance to folks who want to switch is long overdue. The benefits to regenerative practices are actually more to the public than to the individual operator. I will be sad and angry if the financial assistance goes only to helping folks switch over to regenerative practices and not to those of us who have, if you will, made the sacrifice on our own for decades.

You will be on the right side of history and future Oregonians will thank you for passing SB 530

Sincerely,

Sarah Deumling

Zena Forest LLC