



February 12, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the Committee, my name is Martin Desmond and live in Newport. I am representing Citizens for a Better Lincoln County.

As we are all aware, Oregon's forests store immense amounts of carbon. SB 530 will help sequester more carbon in Oregon's forests, agricultural lands, and rangelands.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) produced the Forest Carbon Accounting Project report in November 2018. The report estimated that Oregon's forests store approximately 3 billion metric tons of carbon which translates into an equivalent of a CO₂ equivalent of 10.4 to 11.6 billion metric tons. According to that same report, Oregon's forests sequester anywhere from 23 to 63 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. To put these abstract figures into perspective, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that Oregon companies and individuals generate approximately 62 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents annually. In a quick nutshell, Oregon's forests sequester anywhere from one third to two thirds of the CO₂ pollution generated annually in the state.

Citing the OGWC's Natural and Working Lands proposal,

In the most comprehensive natural and working lands assessment for Oregon, Graves et al. (2020) evaluated the potential of twelve land-use and management practices that could be taken to increase carbon sequestration Oregon's natural and working lands. Based on the assumptions about rates of adoption of the different management practices, the study projects that we could increase net sequestration in Oregon by up to 9.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT CO₂e) per year by 2050.

Sequester an additional 4 to 7 MMTCO₂e per year in Oregon's natural and working lands and waters by 2030, and 5 to 8 MMTCO₂e by 2050 relative to a 2010 to 2020 net carbon sequestration business-as-usual baseline. The OGWC recommends that the natural and working lands outcome-based goal should be separate from, and in addition to, Oregon's sector-based emissions reduction goals as established by the Legislature and updated in Governor Brown's EO 20-04. Based on preliminary estimates of the current baseline, we

estimate that this level of ambition represents a 10 and 20 percent increase in sequestration in natural and working lands.

Natural climate solutions – both at the statewide level and the national level – have the potential to help to reduce the severity of climate change. While natural climate solutions are certainly not a magic bullet in our losing “battle” with climate change, a more concerted natural climate solutions effort could potentially sequester five million metric tons which would help a little bit. If homo sapiens around the world each made a small effort, we could at least limit the dramatic impacts of climate change.

Our organization urges you to pass SB 530 out of the committee and for the Senate and House to pass the bill. Thank you.