

Submitter: David Eisler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

My name is David Eisler. I have owned and managed forestland in the Oregon Coast Range for more than 30 years. We thin our stands for both forest health and for fuels reduction. Over the years I have reached out to other small acreage forestland owners and I am personally aware of the reasons that few small woodland owners can choose to thin their forests. Thinning requires smaller, light impact equipment, an infrastructure of roads, yarding, and decking areas and if the harvested trees are small they will have little economic return to cover the contractor's logging costs of falling, skidding, log truck loading and log hauling to a mill.

For those landowners interested in healthy forest management of young stands, financial incentives would allow them to at least break even. For many forestland owners, the choice is between immediate higher financial return high impact clear cutting, and longer-term management for ongoing forest values such as wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and carbon sequestration.

As we continue to experience climate change realities of extreme heat and drought and wildfires, our private forest lands play an increasingly important role in mitigating these impacts. I urge legislators to support SB 530 which recognizes the tremendous potential that Oregon's private forests can contribute to climate change solutions.