



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

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February 15, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

RE: Support for SB 530: Relating to natural climate solutions

Chair Golden and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Natural and Working Lands bill (SB 530). This bill would create a dedicated fund to incentivize the *voluntary* adoption of natural climate solutions (NCS), increasing community resilience and supporting our farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts represents 32 organizations that work to protect clean water, working farms and ranches, and fish and wildlife habitat across our state. Our mission is to serve and strengthen the land trust community in Oregon. Together, our members have worked to conserve over 370,000 acres of land.

SB 530 would incentivize practices that enhance carbon sequestration on natural and working lands, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our resilience to climate change. Our farm and rangelands, forests, and wetlands can mitigate the impacts of climate change while supporting local communities and economies. Healthy lands absorb more carbon from the atmosphere, keep plants and wildlife thriving, reduce the risk of severe wildfires, and offer natural protection to our communities from threats like flooding and pollution.

SB 530 would provide additional funding and programmatic support for private landowners to implement practices that maximize carbon sequestration. With increased support for voluntary conservation, our natural lands can be a part of the climate solution. We encourage you to support this bill and we look forward to being partners in elevating nature's ability to mitigate climate change.



24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust
Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Wallowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust

8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Kelley Beamer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a thin vertical line.

Kelley Beamer
Executive Director
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

