

TO: Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod and Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Jane Stackhouse

Date: February 14, 2023

Re: SB 530

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee, my name is Jane Stackhouse, I am a volunteer with the Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT) and a trained Climate Reality Project Leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 530, which will help maximize carbon sequestration and improve the resilience of Oregon's forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, and grow natural resource economies.

Nature provided us with the best carbon sequestration and storage systems - our plants and trees. SB 530 will help us maximize sequestration and storage of our natural systems by careful management. We now have a better scientific understanding of how to steward the land. Sustainable agriculture and smart forestry simply follow the practices prior generations (my grandparents, your great-grandparents) knew. SB 530 will reward the stewards of our farms and forests for the increase in carbon uptake and storage.

I also hope SB 530 will help bridge what we call the urban-rural divide in Oregon. Too often city folks like me forget where our food comes from and too often farmers feel under appreciated as they struggle with drought, wildfire, and crop failure further complicated by commodities pricing. Climate change affects all of us. We are all in this together. I appreciate Oregon's family farms and I want them to thrive. SB 530 has great potential to do this by rewarding sustainable farming and the additional carbon these processes will store in the soil.

I'll admit to being a 'tree-hugger' since my mother taught us to literally hug trees as part of her efforts to teach us to appreciate nature. Her father was a woodworker and she worked in the construction industry and supervised the building of our home. Smart forestry will help rebuild the Oregon forestry industry from one that exports logs to one that harvests and processes trees in a sustainable manner. We can all support generationally diverse forests which are proven to be more productive and sequester more carbon than monocultures re-plantations. As an urban dweller I know we also need to increase our urban forests.

The agricultural and forestry practices that sequester and store carbon benefit the resilience of our lands and waters against climate change. Rewarding foresters and farmers for sequestering and storing carbon helps us all and helps to protect farmers, farms, timber workers, and forests from the adverse effects of climate change.

SB 530 will also help Oregon leverage Federal funds available through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that includes about \$30 billion in incentives for climate-smart agriculture, conservation and sustainable forestry.

I urge you to pass SB 530 with a 'do pass' recommendation.

Jane Stackhouse  
Portland, Oregon