

Portland Audubon Testimony in Support of SB 530

Good Morning Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee. For the record my name is Kyle Linhares on behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland.

Portland Audubon has advocated for Oregon's wildlife and wild places for more than 100 years. Their mission is to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends.

It is my privilege to appear today in support of SB 530.

Portland Audubon strongly supports natural climate solutions designed to protect or enhance the ability of working lands to store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while increasing climate resilience, water quality and quantity, human well-being, and biodiversity.

Activities such as: urban tree canopy expansion; drinking watershed protection; wetland and riparian zone restoration; cover crop planting; rotational grazing; no till and reduced tillage farming; lengthened logging rotations; and enhanced reforestation are practices offer simple, proven solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change and mitigate the climate change effects that our communities and land managers are already contending with. An important co-benefit of the natural solutions this bill supports is it means higher quality habitat for fish and wildlife.

SB 530 advances the strategies identified in the Natural and Working Lands Proposal, adopted by the Oregon Global Warming Commission in 2021 after extensive stakeholder engagement. A broad coalition of Oregon farmers, ranchers, forest owners, environmental and climate organizations—including the Audubon Society of Portland—support this bill.

We respectfully urge your support of SB 530. Thank you.