

Submitter: Elaine Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

I strongly support SB 530 the Natural Climate Solutions bill. This bill will offer simple, proven solutions for both reducing the future impacts of climate change and confronting the impacts communities and land managers are already contending with, including drought, heatwaves, flooding, and wildfire. Natural climate solutions are critical for fighting climate change and protecting our forests, farms, grasslands, and wetlands.

We need to use every climate solution at our disposal to confront the worsening climate and biodiversity crises. Given the tight state budget this year, it is important that Oregon do everything it can to leverage additional federal resources. This bill will provide matching state funds for recent federal legislation including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill, which in turn will provide significant new financial resources for Oregon's ranchers, farmers, and forest owners.

Natural climate solutions that enhance carbon storage and sequestration, such as cover crops and longer logging rotations, can also provide numerous co-benefits, such as clean and abundant drinking water for communities; improved fish and wildlife habitat; and reduced risk of flooding, erosion, and landslides.

As a whole, investing in natural climate solutions means more support for urban and rural communities, more climate resilience, and a stronger future for all of Oregon. And it's time we took advantage of these win-win opportunities.