



February 14, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair
The Honorable Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resource
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted Electronically

Subject: Support for SB 530

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and members of the Committee, for the record my name is David Ford. I am a residence of Yamhill County, a professional forestry, a small family woodland owner, and a Senior Fellow at the American Forest Foundation. I also serve as a voting Commissioner of the Oregon Global Warming Commission and as a Councilor on the Dundee City Council. My testimony today is on behalf of the American Forest Foundation.

The American Forest Foundation, based in Washington DC with programs across the U.S., is a non-profit conservation organization that delivers meaningful conservation impact through the empowerment of family forest owners. Working together, we strive to cultivate the many social and environmental benefits family-owned forests provide to communities across the country.

Through our [Family Forest Carbon Program](#), we enable family forest owners to access climate finance from carbon markets to improve forest health and address climate change while earning income from their land. Family-owned forestland (270 million acres in the U.S.) offers a largely untapped natural landscape to mitigation the effects of climate change. In Oregon, 15% of 4.3 million acres of forestland is owned by 62,000 families and individuals where implementing carbon-friendly management practices offer significant opportunity to sequester more carbon and protect stores of carbon.

The American Forest Foundation supports SB 530.

American Forest Foundation believes SB 530 offers appropriate recognition of the role natural and working lands can and must play to mitigate future impacts of climate change and it provides the authorization and funding framework necessary to ensures these lands can contribute to their potential.

We support the key elements of the legislative, including:

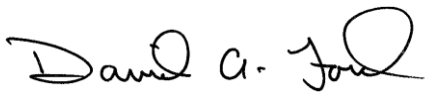
- Declaring it is the policy of the state to implement strategies to advance natural climate solutions
- Investing in research to improve data and information about the capacity of natural and working lands to sequester carbon – this should include the capacity of wood products to store carbon

- Establishing a Forestry Natural Climate Solutions Fund dedicated to making investments in forest practices that will improve forest health and resiliency, leading to greater and more stable carbon stocks on the landscape
- Investing in a natural and working lands net carbon sequestration and storage inventory – this should include wood products in buildings and other uses that store carbon long-term such as biochar
- Authorizing the establishment of a natural and working lands advisory committee to advise the Oregon Global Warming Commission
- Directing the Department of Energy to study the workforce and training programs needed to support adoption of actions needed across natural and working lands

We offer a few recommendations to improve the legislation as follows:

- We strongly support incentivizing small forest owners to implement management practices that will improve forest health and resiliency, leading to greater and more stable carbon stocks on the landscape. However, we recommend that the bill language specifically require state agencies designing incentive programs to require outreach and engagement of small forest owners to ensure these programs are practical and will work for small forest owners.
- We recommend that the natural and working lands advisory committee to be appointed by the Oregon Global Warming Commission specifically require appointment of a small forest owner and a professional forester. Also, consideration should be given to including a large private forest owner and a wood manufacturer, as although these sectors are all part of the broader forestry interest, they all have considerably different perspectives and experiences. This will add to a more inclusive and diverse committee.
- We recommend investing in research to determine the effects on carbon sequestration and storage on a range of forest practices, including the wood products generated from these forest management practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David Ford
Senior Fellow
American Forest Foundation