



TO: Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Committee Members
FR: Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager, Beyond Toxics
DT: February 15, 2023

RE: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources in Support of SB 530

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Beyond Toxics, a state-wide environmental justice nonprofit, and thousands of our supporters across the state, I am writing to express my strong support of SB 530—a common sense bill that will support carbon storage and sequestration on our natural and working lands to help Oregon meet its climate goals. This is a vital step in fighting the climate crisis and utilizing Oregon’s lands as necessary carbon sinks. Beyond Toxics is an organization that emphasizes environmental justice and community engagement. We work to guarantee environmental protection and health for all communities as well as individual residents, regardless of their income, status, or background. Beyond Toxics is proud to be part of a broad coalition of non-profit organizations, elected officials, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners across Oregon who are eager to see the legislature advance Natural Climate Solutions and pass SB 530 this session.

Passing SB 530 and incentivizing Natural Climate Solutions on our natural and working lands is vital to fighting the climate crisis and protecting Oregon’s most vulnerable communities. Our state is already experiencing climate change's adverse impacts, including drought and water insecurity, climate-fueled wildfires, and unprecedented heat domes. While these events impact all Oregon families and communities, they affect our frontline, rural, and environmental justice communities first and worst. The effects of climate change disproportionately fall on underserved communities that lack vital access to climate-resiliency resources and those that are least able to prepare for and recover from climate-fueled disasters. Providing additional resources for these communities must be a top priority for the state legislature.

Natural Climate Solutions are nature-based alternatives that not only improve Oregon’s land, air, and water; but also provide better livability for our communities. Natural Climate Solutions can fight the climate crisis by reducing heat island effects in our urban areas, improving flood control by utilizing wetlands, improving wildfire resilience and thus community protection, and so much more. By investing in Natural Climate Solutions, SB 530 will help address the climate crisis by strengthening Oregon lands to better sequester carbon and help our state be more resilient. Additionally, this legislation will provide additional resources for communities already

experiencing the impacts of climate change firsthand. Through SB 530's Natural and Working Lands Fund, incentives and technical support will be available to our small forestland owners, land managers, and ranchers to equitably implement these vital practices on their land.

This legislature must make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to achieve our climate sequestration and resilience goals and ensure that communities with the greatest need can benefit from these funds. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Teryn Yazdani
Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager
Beyond Toxics