

Chair Golden, members of the Committee, my name is Stephanie Weber and I am here to testify in support of SB 530.

Oregon has started to make strides in reducing our contributions to the climate crisis, but more must be done to avoid the worst possible outcomes.

SB 530 would help to support climate-smart land management practices to bolster resiliency in our forests, waters, and agricultural land all while maximizing carbon sequestration.

Every individual part of our ecosystem is vital. Healthy soil retains more moisture and improves water quality while producing healthier crops which increase earnings.

Private forests managed for increased carbon sequestration also improve water quality and wildlife habitat, and offer better protection from wildfires, which will only continue to become more dangerous as the climate crisis worsens.

Healthy coastal wetlands are essential for protecting vulnerable coastal communities from storm surges and providing critical habitat for ecosystems that are just as vulnerable.

We need to protect these ecosystems. Not tomorrow, not next week, TODAY. Natural climate solutions should be at the forefront of Oregon's actions to combat the climate crisis.

We have a unique opportunity to access federal funds for climate-smart agriculture and more ecologically sustainable forestry through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Oregon needs SB 530. Our planet wins by having more lands used sustainably and to sequester carbon. Our workers win by benefiting from increased profits from sustainable farming techniques. And the people of Oregon win because we will benefit from cleaner air and water.

I strongly urges the committee to vote yes on SB530. Thank you.