

Submitter: Paulette Wittwer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

I am writing to enthusiastically support Natural Climate Solutions, SB 530. Oregon's farmlands, forests and coastal areas are already impacted by extreme weather, drought and wildfires. In the face of the growing climate impacts, this bill promotes changes that are very important to rural and natural Oregon. Our family has a farm near Parkdale with woodlands, wetlands and farmland. With lower snow levels on Mt. Hood and the Cascades, there has already been less irrigation water for the valley. There's also much greater heat and cold and we need to adapt our irrigation, farm practices and forest resilience. This bill can be beneficial to many in Oregon who have similar challenges

SB 530 is one of the most important bills to come through our legislature in a long time. With the availability of new federal funds, SB 530 can channel designated monies to state agencies working on climate problems and solutions. They can increase staff, provide technical support and incentives to Oregonians on "natural and working lands." On our farm, we're eager for this kind of support to make necessary changes.

One of the most important aspects of the bill is that at the same time it improves farmland and forests, it also encourages Oregonians to voluntarily use less carbon and sequester more. This is a natural way to achieve some of the carbon reduction goals that are so important to our future. I urge the passage of SB 530.