Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for SB 530 today.

As both a natural land and working land owner and a citizen concerned about the effects of global warming, I have been hoping for legislation that will provide natural climate solutions to benefit entire communities across Oregon. SB Bill 530 will do just that; it will protect our communities from climate-fueled heat and drought, wildfires, flooding, erosion, and landslides, while making our natural resource economy more resilient. Increased soil water retention and soil health are beneficial; as the saying goes,"Where there is poor soil, there are poor people."

Living in the Columbia River Gorge, I have been directly affected by the proximity of wildfires and their toxic air quality (although difficult to admit here in Oregon, ours was among the worst in the world), erosion, landslides, and drought. I clear fallen trees and natural debris from structures and plant native trees and plants, but invasive plant species have quickly grown rampant, choking out native vegetation, and according to a local resource official, it could be 10 years before the invasive plants might be contained or eradicated.

Meanwhile, technical assistance and incentives to protect the forest and natural biodiversity would be welcome. Similar to Rockaway's situation, we might be searching for water sources soon because the Corbett watershed's large, steep slope was clearcut, costing us one of two stream sources, and the estimated cost of replacement wells is $2.2 million.
In comparison, sustainable logging improves water quantity and quality, as well as increases the sequestration of carbon.

Furthermore, with the potential federal funds available for voluntary conservation efforts in the state, the time is ripe for action and it is a win-win opportunity for all of Oregon.
Natural solutions make sense. I urge you to vote for SB 530.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hood