

Submitter: Jennifer Sprague

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

I support SB 530 because we need to protect Oregonians and our natural resources as best we can from the climate catastrophe we are facing today, and using natural solutions is the best way we can do that.

I live in the Willamette Valley, which the Oregon Department of Agriculture describes as “Perhaps the most diverse agricultural region on earth,” producing more than 170 different crops including grain, hay, grass seed, specialty seeds, vegetables, tree fruits, berries, hazelnuts, wine grapes, hops, nursery products, Christmas trees, dairy and beef cows, and poultry.

(<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Administration/ORGrowingRegions.pdf>). I believe that it is vitally important for us to help our farmers to implement regenerative agriculture methods that will help them increase the quantity and improve the quality of their yields, while improving the quality of the soil and water so important to our existence. Healthy soils produce healthier crops, retain more moisture, improve water quality, and increase producers’ income.

I also want to protect our watersheds. Healthy forests provide clean drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and protection from wildfire.

It’s critical that we adopt SB 530 NOW, so that we can make use of federal funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

I strongly urge you to vote YES on SB 530.