



To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Date: 2/16/2023

RE: SUPPORT of SB 530, Natural Climate Solutions

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Girod, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input on SB 530. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support to pass SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions Bill. SB 530 is one of OCN's 2023 Priorities for a Healthy Oregon.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). OCN is a coalition of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

The OLCV and OCN enthusiastically urge your support on SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions bill.

This legislation is a win-win for Oregon's climate, and for land managers, environmental justice communities, and Tribes. It will both fight climate change and protect farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and entire communities against ever-worsening climate impacts. For these and other reasons, more than 50 landowners and managers across Oregon have endorsed SB 530.

Natural climate solutions are key to achieving net zero emissions by no later than 2050, which is what scientific consensus has concluded is necessary to avoid irreversible catastrophic climate impacts. At the same time, practices that sequester and store carbon can also make our lands and waters more resilient to climate extremes. Improving climate resilience is essential as drought, wildfires, and extreme temperatures continue to threaten Oregon's water supply, agriculture yields, and other natural resource sectors. These solutions also offer additional co-benefits such as better wildlife habitat, access to clean drinking water, and improved access to nature.

By providing incentives and technical support to forest owners, farmers, and ranchers to implement natural climate solutions on natural and working lands, SB 530 will help maximize



carbon sequestration and climate resiliency on our forests, agricultural lands, and wetlands and improve the health of Oregon communities and our natural resource economy. In doing so, this legislation will position Oregon to leverage billions of dollars in new federal funding and private investments in climate-smart land management practices.

For all these reasons, we are enthusiastic about the bill and the many opportunities it provides. We respectfully ask for your support and urge a yes vote on SB 530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia B. DeGraw".

Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Pew Charitable Trusts, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition