

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 530

February 15, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

In the past decade, Oregon has experienced many unprecedented weather-related disasters, from record-breaking temperatures, bigger wildfires, unusual snowstorms, and megadroughts - all indicators of a changing climate. These extreme events have ripple effects on our environment, economy, public health, and the well-being of our communities, and are among the reasons that **I write in support of SB530.**

We need enhanced management of our existing resources to help combat climate change, while supporting our natural resource economy and vibrant rural communities.

Natural climate solutions and working lands, including wetlands, help to protect and enhance our ability to store carbon and reduce greenhouse gasses, while maintaining and increasing climate resilience, water quality and quantity, and biodiversity.

The approximately 1.4 million acres of wetland ecosystems in Oregon are vital ecosystems. They essentially function as natural sponges, storing, cooling and filtering water. Not only do they help mitigate flooding, they also efficiently sequester significant amounts of atmospheric carbon. We need to restore and protect these indispensable spaces as essential tools in our climate response.

SB 530 sets up the framework to incentivize climate-smart land and water management practices to create more resilient forests, farmlands, and wetlands, while maximizing carbon sequestration and better positioning Oregon to match and secure once-in-a-generation federal funding.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support for SB 530.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron



House District 26
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain