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February 16, 2023

Sen. Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 530, Natural Climate Solutions

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

The Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 250,000 residents in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide natural areas, high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We strive to provide all individuals the opportunity to play, learn, and explore, and all employees and volunteers the opportunity to further the district's mission. We do this by removing barriers to participation, fostering an inclusive culture, and offering programs that celebrate the district's diverse population.

On behalf of the THPRD board, I'm writing to express the district's support for SB 530, the Natural Climate Solutions bill. This bill will provide solutions for reducing the future impacts of climate change and addressing the impacts of natural disasters on our community.

Natural climate solutions will be essential to fighting the effects of a changing climate and for protecting the lands for which we serve as stewards. We are encouraged by the fact that this bill will provide matching state funds for recent federal legislation including the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicita Monteblanco".

Felicita Monteblanco
President, THPRD Board of Directors