



**SB 530- Natural Climate Solutions funding  
Testimony before the Joint Ways and Means Committee  
April 14, 2023 Newport, Oregon**

Good evening, Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Representative Gomberg, and other members of the committee, my name is Martin Desmond of Newport, representing the Citizens for a Better Lincoln. In my brief testimony, I would like to ask that the Joint Ways and Means Committee approve \$20 million of funding for the Natural Climate Solutions SB 530 which passed the Senate Natural Resources committee on April 3, 2023. I would like to thank our local Representative David Gomberg for co-sponsoring this legislation.

SB 530 establishes state policy regarding natural climate solutions and establishes the Natural and Working Lands Fund and provides for transfer of moneys from fund to certain state agencies. The bill prescribes uses of moneys from fund and requires Oregon Global Warming Commission to report to legislature on uses of moneys from fund.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission has generated two reports to the State Legislature in the past several months including its Biennial Report to the Oregon Legislature and the Oregon Climate Action Roadmap to 2030 – Commission Recommendations. According to the Roadmap report, Oregon missed its 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 13 percent. In fact, the emissions grew by 19 percent above the 2020 goal.

The Oregon Global Warming Commission adopted six recommendations to the Oregon State Legislature to meet the Executive Order 20-04 2035 goal of at least 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2035. Recommendation 4 includes “Direct and fund ODOE, in partnership with the OGWC and other state agencies, to develop a robust statewide natural and working lands (N&WL) inventory, baseline, and metrics to inform carbon sequestration efforts.

Stepping back to look at the big picture of carbon sequestration in Oregon, the Department of Environmental Quality has estimated that emissions in Oregon total approximately 62 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Depending upon which study one wants to believe, Oregon’s forests sequester approximately 30 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually with ranges from 23 MMT up to 60 MMT. That is a significant amount of sequestration performed for “free” by our forests.

Citing the OGWC’s Natural and Working Lands proposal drafted in 2018,

*In the most comprehensive natural and working lands assessment for Oregon, Graves et al. (2020) evaluated the potential of twelve land-use and management practices that could be taken to increase carbon sequestration Oregon's natural and working lands. Based on the assumptions about rates of adoption of the different management practices, the study projects that we could increase net sequestration in Oregon by up to 9.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year by 2050.*

### **Fiscal impact of proposed legislation**

The Legislative Fiscal Office has drafted a three page summary of the fiscal impacts. In part, the summary states:

*The fiscal impact of this measure for these agencies is largely indeterminate given that this measure does not specify how much funding, and what fund source, will be deposited in the Natural and Working Lands Fund.*

The Oregon Department of Energy has assembled an initial cost for the next four years:

*ODOE anticipates costs totaling \$1,526,146 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, and \$1,106,455 General Fund in the 2025-27 biennium.*

I understand that the primary co-sponsor, State Senator Michael Dembrow, has suggested \$20 million of funding for the Natural and Working Lands Fund.

Our organization concurs with State Senator Dembrow and asks that the Joint Ways and Means Committee approve \$20 million in funding.