

Submitter: Jennifer Fujii
On Behalf Of: SB 530
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 530.

I have a degree in the natural resources from Oregon State University and have worked in the field for over 10 years. The science of climate change is clear, and it is showing that we must act now with all available solutions in order to avoid the worst of the climate catastrophes. The UN IPCC's latest report earlier this year rings the alarm bell. It is a tool to policy and lawmakers, and I hope you will take the time to read about it. I want to advocate today for SB 530, a bill that will do a lot to tackle this enormous issue that is climate change. The bill is for natural climate solutions, to help steward and implement natural climate solutions as practices on state and private lands. We can use our lands to help sequester green house gas emissions into the ground and shelter communities from the worst impacts of climate change. Here are some of the impacts that SB 530 will implement in Oregon.

The bill supports longer logging rotations on private lands. We know that older trees sequester more carbon dioxide than new ones so this change is important. The bill will protect public lands with mature and old growth forests. If passed this legislation will help protect coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surge. The bill will encourage cover crop planting on agricultural lands and will protect and restore drinking watersheds and delicate wetlands. The bill will enable us to plant more trees in urban areas. Additionally, this legislation recognizes the importance of studying, workforce and training programs to implement natural climate solutions. The bill will help foster a collaborative process with the NWL advisory committee, with stakeholders, tribal governments, conservation and environmental justice advocates, and technical service providers having a seat at the table in directing policy. The methodologies that are behind this bill are science backed and data driven for carbon sequestration storage inventory, something that the state will need to track our process and market the offsets if we ever are able to put a true price on green house gas emissions in our economy. The cost of climate change is paid by people today, but also our future. We have been writing checks that our children are left to cash, but many communities are already living through regular climate catastrophes.

This bill is common sense and has support across Oregon. It may not be perfect but we cannot let perfect be the enemy of good when Oregonians are suffering and dying already due to the impacts of climate catastrophes with more regular frequency than in our modern history. Please fund SB 530, Oregon needs Natural climate solutions.