

Submitter: Emily Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5039

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

I'm writing as an octogenarian with a lifelong commitment to preserving life on our planet to express my strong support for \$5M in OWEB's budget for renewal of the Natural and Working Lands Fund, which provides incentives and technical support to help landowners, land managers, environmental justice communities, and Tribes adopt practices that support natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands. Because we humans have been distracted from the preservation of our life support system by monied interests, and our long colonizing history of domination and extraction of resources, we are at the midnight hour for survival for many life forms on Earth. It is our duty to do everything in our power to preserve as much life as possible on this Creation given gift, our HOME and HOME to a diversity of life few of us begin to appreciate or understand. It is even more imperative that these funds be renewed because the Federal Government's budget is no longer determined by the Congress that voted on it. We have no reason to believe that monies for preservation and resilience will be safeguarded now that the jobs of so many foresters have been eliminated by the Executive Branch. Please, please, please renew this funding to keep a bit of Creation going on our one life supporting planet, in our State of Oregon. We Oregonians value and treasure our natural and working lands and they can be protected with the dedication of these funds and the landstewards committed to their preservation.

I urge your support for the inclusion of the \$5M investment of the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. Thank you!

Emily Herbert, Ph.D