

Submitter: Gabriela Orwick

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 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.

Natural climate solutions

- help remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in our natural and working lands, increase ecosystem resilience, and maintain or increase human well-being.
- have economic, social, and health benefits to communities. As the climate changes, these benefits help increase Oregon's overall resilience to climate disturbances and severe events like wildfire, floods, and heat domes.
- take time to establish and will cost more to build in the future. The sooner natural climate solutions are implemented, the more they can help lessen the magnitude of disturbance events and potentially reduce future damages and costs.

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!

Thank you,
Gabriela Orwick