

February 24, 2025

Sent via OLIS.

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

RE: **Support for \$5M in OWEB's budget for renewal of the Natural and Working Lands Fund**

FR: Oregon Business for Climate

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

Oregon Business for Climate strongly supports \$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.

Oregon Business for Climate is a league of businesses across the state in a range of industries from manufacturing to agriculture to transportation to healthcare. We believe climate leadership is critical to the health of Oregon's industries and communities, and will help our state re-emerge as a leader thriving in the growing clean economy. To that end, our mission is to advance urgent, ambitious, equitable climate policies and programs designed to help spur innovation and economic opportunity while effectively and responsibly reducing emissions.

In short, we are a statewide group of businesses that see both the **imperative** and the **opportunity** of taking bold action to address climate change. We believe Oregon can and must do more to address climate change, that business plays a critical role in this progress, and that aggressive action is good for Oregon.

We support including \$5 million in OWEB's budget to renew the Natural and Working Lands Fund. These natural climate solutions are critical to advancing Oregon toward the **huge potential in economic stability, community resilience, and soil health.**

Smart Investments with Far-reaching Co-Benefits

Oregon's Natural and Working Lands Fund is already demonstrating traction and producing results. But these programs require continuity to maintain and build on success and thus maximize their returns. In addition to the program teams helping to implement these projects, land managers and other participants need continuity to plan on future projects while maintaining the benefits of prior investments.

With these projects running at a healthy and consistent level, they produce a host of co-benefits for Oregon communities. Beyond carbon sequestration and storage, owners and communities realize benefits in managing wildfire risk, improved water filtration and storage, cooler water temperatures, maintaining biodiversity, providing pollinator habitat, soil health, reducing flood damage, and more. These benefits help increase Oregon's overall resilience to climate disturbances and severe events like wildfire, floods, and heat domes.

Oregon Business for Climate strongly urges your support for the inclusion of the \$5M investment of the NWL Fund in OWEB's budget for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Miller
Director
Oregon Business for Climate