Submitter: Rand Schenck

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or   HB5039
        Topic:

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

As the Forestry and Natural Lands Lead for MCAT, Mobilizing Climate Action Together, I am writing to encourage use to support efforts to use natural climate solutions by including $5 million in OWEB's budget for the Natural and Working Lands Fund for the 2025 – 2027 biennium.

Oregon is making good progress toward meeting its GHG emission reduction goals. To meet our net zero goals by 2050 we will need to do much more to drawdown GHG emissions. Fortunately, we have one of the most carbon dense forests in the world on a per acre basis. The most effective means for drawing down significant amounts of carbon is to simply grow trees longer. Of course, we also need to pay attention to how our wetlands, agricultural lands, range lands can be managed to also drawdown carbon.

These funds can go a long ways towards incentivizing the use of a wide range of natural climate solutions. We know that much has already been accomplished by a number of our state agencies with the support of the Oregon Climate Action Commission. Now more than ever we need to provide continuity with these various initiatives, especially given the federal government's shutting down of programs designed to mitigate the climate crisis. As a state we need to demonstrate that our citizenry wants to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck
MCAT Forestry and Natural Lands Lead

**The OLCV sponsored group, MCAT, Mobilizing Climate Action Together, is a community of volunteers working to ensure that Oregon builds a healthy climate and green-energy economy for future generations. We participate in the Oregon Climate Action Plan coalition and partner with others on coordinated action.   We actively organize to elect legislators that will work for strong climate legislation.