

Senator Frederick, Representative Levy, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is John Christensen, and I'm a member of the MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together) working group on forestry. My wife and I are small woodland owners in east Multnomah County. We have enrolled our forest in a carbon sequestration program that allows us to use our land as a natural climate solution.

I support HB 5039, because it would provide a needed \$5 million investment in the Natural and Working Land Fund, which has provided funding to help willing landowners like ourselves take voluntary action to utilize their forests, rangelands, and wetlands as climate solutions that can help Oregon meet its climate goals. There are additional benefits to carbon sequestration on these lands, such as watershed enhancement and wildlife protection.

Renewed investment is needed to ensure program continuity and reliable funding for landowners and managers. The NWL Fund is newly established and resulting in great work. Sustained support continues the momentum from the initial investment in programs and staff to an established effort that is creating landscape change and helping communities adapt to a changing climate.