

TO: Isabel.Hernandez@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Wild supports legislation to meaningfully address climate change, and we appreciate the legislature's work on this matter. We strongly urge the legislature to include forestry in the proposed Climate Cap-and-Invest Bill that is being discussed in the Oregon legislature.

The Forest Carbon Task Force of the Oregon Global Warming Commission has done its research and made clear that forests are a huge part of Oregon's carbon cycle, that logging is a huge contributor to gross GHG emissions in the state, and that growing forests can capture and store a lot of carbon if they are allowed to grow. It's clear that forests can be both part of the problem and part of the solution to global warming, so forests should definitely be included in both the "cap" and the "invest" sides of the Climate Bill.

Considering managed forests in the context of climate change, requires attention to the "opportunity costs" of logging because it kills trees that could otherwise continue to grow and sequester carbon. Even though forests across Oregon might still be sequestering net carbon each year, they are not doing nearly as much as they could if they were growing more than currently and being logged less than currently. Ideally, the climate bill will create incentives for forest conservation and disincentives for forest harvest that kills trees and accelerates transfer of forest carbon to the atmosphere.

We think it would be a big mistake to exclude logging from the cap while allowing offsets from the forestry sector. This would reward forest activities that are good for the climate, but fail to sanction forest activities that are bad for the climate. This would lead to leakage (e.g., more logging in forests outside of the off-set projects), and a reversal of progress on climate goals.

We urge that the Climate Bill address all landowners whose forestry activities (not just "harvest") emit more than 25k gross tonnes of CO₂e/year.

The language proposed by John Talberth of Sustainable Energy and Economy Network are a good place to start the conversation about how to incorporate forests into the bill.

Sincerely,



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