



Our mission is to connect people to the natural world and cultivate a community of environmental stewards working together to build a greener and healthier planet.

February 2, 2022

Senator Tim Knopp  
900 Court St., NE, S-425  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 1546-1; Elliott State Research Forest

Dear Senator Knopp,

I'm writing to express our support for Senate Bill 1546-1; the establishment of the Elliott State Research Forest. The conservation of our state's forests is a primary concern of the Worthy Garden Club and we are active supporters of research and policy that address the health and function of these critical ecosystems, providing expertise and funding for numerous organizations involved in these efforts. The long-term preservation of the Elliott State Forest as a public resource will ensure protection of critical carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and habitat values provided solely by mature and old-growth forests.

Ongoing research indicates mature forests are essential elements in global efforts to mitigate human-induced climate change. Temperate forests in Oregon have been identified as net carbon sinks, equal to or exceeding benefits commonly associated with the Amazonian rainforest. But this is only true if the average diameter of trees exceeds twenty-one inches. Part of SB 1546 is the completion of a Forest Management Plan establishing reserves where previously logged stands will be allowed to become mature forests. This single requirement within the Bill is crucial to meeting national goals outlined in President Biden's Executive Order 140008, and helps establish Oregon as a leader in climate and environmental management. Other elements of the bill work to preserve other outstanding environmental and social values inherent in our State's old-growth forests.

The Elliott State Forest must be kept in public ownership to maintain its remarkable values in carbon storage, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and to manage for threatened species and protect drinking water supplies. Additionally, provisions within the bill substantially improve conditions for threatened anadromous fisheries. We believe the Elliott State Research Forest agreement achieves outcomes necessary for the continued responsible management of our public resources, and strongly encourage you to support Senate Bill 1546-1.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s/ Richard Martinson, PhD

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