



SIMNITT NURSERY

February 6, 2020

To: Senate Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

From: Jerry Simnitt

RE: Senate Bill SB 1530

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My brother and I own and operate Simnitt Nursery based in the Canby area. We have been growing nursery stock for over 40 years. I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1530 as it is currently written. The bill is worse than the 2019 version in many ways and will have serious negative impacts to my business.

SB 1530 would increase many of the inputs for producing plants with the goal of reducing CO2 levels. Our nursery industry, and our nursery specifically, are already doing that work. EVERY plant we grow and sell, sequesters CO2 and produces oxygen. Our trees and shrubs offer shade reducing the "Heat Island" effect that afflicts many large cities and communities. Oregon is one of the largest exporters of trees and shrubs which have a strong environmentally friendly impact for our state and the others that buy and use our plants.

We just finished our propagation for Winter, in greenhouses heated with Natural Gas. Just one small greenhouse, has over 90,000 small plants, which throughout their long lives will be shipped throughout the US and directly reduce CO2 in the atmosphere, create oxygen and produce shade. All benefits that most industries cannot assert and appears to be the justification behind SB 1530.

Every time, the legislature passes a new law, adds regulation to nurseries or makes rules more restrictive for the nursery industry, is an affront to the environmental concerns we all have. Even the increase of paperwork will take me away from producing plants and force me in my office filling out forms and wasting valuable time that should be spent growing plants. If SB 1503 passes, it will critically harm Oregon businesses and make Oregon less competitive, all this for an infinitesimal decline in CO2 levels. This is a horrible exchange. This bill will hurt my business and is counterproductive to what it claims to solve. Nurseries are the solution to this environmental question not the problem.

I urge you to vote no on SB 1530, to help protect Oregon's largest agricultural sector, the nurseries.

Sincerely,

Jerry Simnitt

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