

Submitter: Sue Kelso-Haines
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

I urge you to support SB 77 and SB78. I am greatly concerned about the loss of farm and timberland and its conversion to other uses such as expensive homes, hotels, entertainment venues, commercial businesses, etc. in Oregon. Timber and farmland are edged out more and more every year with the rapid and continued population growth that is happening. The problem is becoming significant.

Farms and timberlands feed our people and supply our timber. Allowing other uses result in major impacts: fueling rising land costs; creating the need to import goods when we can grow and profit by growing these agricultural products in Oregon; adding to the already congested road system we have, etc. Finally, the middle and lower socioeconomic members of our society are already suffering from the growing costs of meeting basic living needs. SB 77 and SB78 would close the long-abused loopholes that have been allowed to exacerbate these problems. We NEED these farms and timberlands to keep Oregon's economy and thus our communities viable and healthy!

Please keep in mind that SB77 and SB78 will significantly effect the future of Oregon in a positive and critical way. Again, I urge you to support them. I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Sue Kelso-Haines
Hood River, OR