

Submitter: Carrie Thomas
On Behalf Of: Myself and Thrive Hood River
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

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

I am writing to you as a small farm owner, resident of Hood River County, and Thrive Hood River Board member. I am proud that our state has a forward thinking Land Use System that protects our farmland and forest land with special designations meant to keep these lands preserved for agricultural and forest use. SB 77 will help protect Oregon lands against inappropriate non-farm and non-forest uses by making sure that farm and forest businesses be the primary reason for a dwelling in these zones and insure they cannot be turned into hotels, large event venues or other inappropriate commercial uses. My work with Thrive Hood River includes that I read every planning permit submitted to the county. Through this work, I have seen first hand the variety of non-farm and forest business requests that come through the pipeline and difficulty of regulating inappropriate permit requests with the current loophole language.

I urge you to pass SB 77 to close these loopholes. Please help keep our farmland affordable for farmers and our forest lands working for future generations of Oregonians.

Thank you for your committee work on behalf of Oregonians and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Regards,
Carrie Thomas