



GORGEFRIENDS.ORG

March 6, 2025

Re: SB 77 – SUPPORT

Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge”).

**Friends supports SB 77** which updates the law regarding home occupations on rural farm and forest land to limit it to true, small-scale home occupations.

Previously, the law allowing for home occupation on farm and forest land has been used for larger commercial activities, including hospitality businesses on rural lands. SB 77 updates the law to state that any home occupations conducted in a dwelling must be secondary to the dwelling’s purpose as a residence for the owner or operator of the home occupation. It also places limits on the number of clients it may host at any one time.

It’s crucial that we protect our farm and forest lands. Large commercial activity and hospitality businesses operating under the home occupation provision were contributing to increased land costs for Oregon’s working lands, driving up costs for farmers and forest managers. This bill will help keep farm and forest land protected for its intended uses.

**Please support SB 77 and protect Oregon’s farm and forest land.**

Sincerely,  
Madison Kenney  
Conservation Organizer