

Submitter: Kay Firor
On Behalf Of: Firor Osterberg Family
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Committee Members Girod, Prozanski and Taylor:

Thank you for your care of Oregon's natural resources.

I am writing today to express my support for SB 77. I'd like to ask you to pass this important measure.

Our land use laws in Oregon allow people living in exclusive farm use and forest zones to operate small businesses, called "home occupations," within their homes. Examples include my own family's business of installing solar electric systems, as well as neighbors' produce sales, exercise class, and accounting business. None of these businesses utilize land other than a home garden space or small storage shed; they are indeed "home-based" businesses, and do not encroach upon our respective forest or farmland.

The existing home occupation provision is vaguely written and it has become a loophole that has enabled hospitality, entertainment, and other large-scale commercial uses to build facilities upon our valuable exclusive farm use and forest zones, evading the legislature's specific requirements for such nonfarm and nonforest uses.

I urge you to pass SB 77 to protect Oregon's working farms and forest lands.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Kay Firor
Forest Owner
Cove, OR