

Submitter: Michelle Lowe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

I oppose this bill as it is overly prescriptive and restrictive regarding what property owners may do on their own land. For example, restricting the size of dwelling to the number of clients allowed.

Since becoming a small farmer five years ago, I have met many other farmers (large and small scale). The majority of these farmers would not get by financially without agritourism activities, such as classes, demonstrations, markets, etc. I would like to do these activities on my farm as well. Should I be limited to 3 clients for wreath making or distillation demonstrations or not be allowed to sell my products from my farm?

I understand not allowing a large auto shop, airplane hangar, storage rental, etc. on farm land, however this bill goes too far in trying to regulate farmers who provide valuable goods and services to other Oregonians. Almost every customer I meet at the markets I participate in wants to know where my farm is and if we're open to the public. People want to experience farms and learn about their operations. This bill will prevent these rich experiences and community involvement.

Please go back to the drawing board and come up with a bill that makes sense.

Respectfully,

Michelle Lowe
Lowe's Lavender Farm