

Submitter: Sheila Dooley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB78

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee

Please support SB 78.

Oregon land use laws regarding replacement dwellings for homeowners in farm and forest zones were intended for those who had lost their homes due to natural disaster or decay. The homeowner could replace their home without meeting the planning requirements for a new home.

Wealthy landowners and speculators are abusing this lack of review criteria to tear down modest homes and build large, expensive country estates unrelated to growing food or fiber. By doing this, they permanently convert the parcel to nonfarm use and make it unaffordable for a farmer to lease or purchase.

SB 78 addresses this misuse by limiting the scale of "replacement dwellings," thereby reducing the speculative attraction of resource lands for luxury homesite development.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dooley