

Submitter: Jim Wood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB788
Topic:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 77, SB 78, and SB 788:

My name is Jim Wood. My family and I have raised cattle, hay, and timber in Crook County since the mid-1960's over some 17,000+ deeded acres and a near equal amount of Federal Lease land. My family also has farmground in Morrow and Washington Counties, in which my siblings are directly-involved.

I am also a two-time past president of the Crook County Stockgrowers, an affiliate of the Oregon Cattleman's Association. I am a past boardmember of the Countyline Water Improvement District in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

I would like to remind folks that cattle and hay are the largest agricultural commodities in the state of Oregon. According to the Oregon State University Department of Agricultural Economics, every dollar becomes two dollars in the local economy.

I wish to voice my support of SB 77 and SB 78, and strongly oppose SB 788.

With respect to SB 77, it should be obvious that home occupation should or rather needs to be "incidental and subordinate" to the agricultural and forestry use of the property. Furthermore, it should also go without saying that the owner of the home should truly be an occupant.

With respect to SB 78, we have seen in the immediate area of my ranch the abuse of replacement dwellings, where tar paper shacks become a mansion of several thousand square feet. This in turn creates a situation whereby the resulting new "dwelling" is more valuable than the rest of the ranch and subsequently leads to fragmentation of the agricultural and silvicultural land base and hyperinflation of real estate prices. The net result is that these properties cease to be productive lands, hence no longer adding to the economic well-being of our state.

Finally, with respect to SB 788, for the most part, only those agricultural operations which are in the first place not economically nor ecologically sustainable are looking to supplemental weddings and similar events. Too much extra work and not enough return. For what it is worth, my 24-year-old son works for an event company in Deschutes County and I can tell you that here in Central Oregon, few or none of these event hosting "farms" and "ranches" are genuine agricultural entities. We need

to rein in this type of use.

Yours Respectfully,

Jim Wood
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