

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

March 5, 2025

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire, thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 77 and SB 78.

As an Oregonian resident for nearly 50 years, I highly value our state's Land Use Planning Program and have seen it work time and again to protect irreplaceable farm and forest land. But the recent past has shown how vulnerable this program is to those who would exploit it for personal gain at the expense of all Oregonians.

I am pleased to see that SB 77 and SB 78 are being considered, since I believe they will strengthen our Land Use Planning Program.

SB 77 limits the definition of "home occupations" on our resource lands, which will help keep valuable farm and forest lands in production, instead of being mere bucolic settings for large scale hospitality and entertainment enterprises. I have seen several examples of this recently in Washington County, as wealthy landowners take land out of production for businesses that have nothing to do with either farm or forestry. We need this to stop now; we cannot afford to lose more of our valuable resource lands to this kind of inappropriate development.

SB 78 would limit the size of replacement dwellings on farm and forest lands. Surely homeowners need to replace dwellings lost to wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters. What we don't need is expensive country estates that have nothing to do with the production of food and fiber. Again, we need this improvement now, before more resource land is lost.

I believe you are as concerned about preserving Oregon's legacy of sustainable resources lands as I am. I thank you for your work on making sure this happens, for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Elisabeth Blizzard
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