

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

Dear 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. I urge you to support these bills.

I grew up in Oregon. I appreciate our farms and wild areas. I am an Oregonian who supports SB 77 and SB 78, which will positively affect agricultural and forest lands by course-correcting rural gentrification and displacement that are turning essential working lands that feed our communities and supply our timber into backdrops for luxury estates and hotels. Family farmers, ranchers, and timberland managers – and especially new and beginning operators – are being priced out by rising land costs. These bills would help close long-abused loopholes that are bad for rural residents, rural economies, and our state as a whole.

SB 77 addresses the problem of speculative land pricing through abuse of the “home occupations” statute, where the mere opportunity to site luxury hotels, and well-heeled entertainment venues on land designated exclusively for agricultural and forest production is driving up farm and forest land prices beyond the reach of family farmers, ranchers, and timberland managers. This statute does not help our real need for affordable housing not luxury housing.

SB 78 deals with a similar issue of speculative land pricing for high-end residential development.

Keep Oregon a leader in best practice landuse. Once we lose these lands, my grandchildren will not enjoy the Oregon i know. Oregon’s farmers, ranchers, and timberland managers deserve better. Support SB 78 and 77.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty