

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

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.

As a farmworker and farmers market manager in Oregon, I see firsthand how rising land costs threaten our agricultural and forest lands. These bills address rural gentrification and land speculation, which are pricing out family farmers, ranchers, and timberland managers – and especially beginning and historically disadvantaged operators -- endangering our rural economies and food systems.

SB 77 closes loopholes in the “home occupations” statute, preventing luxury hotels and entertainment venues from inflating land prices on agricultural and forest lands. SB 78 reforms “replacement dwelling” provisions to stop conversion of working lands into elite residences while still allowing homeowners to rebuild after disasters or decay.

Oregon must act now to protect its irreplaceable farm and forest lands. Once lost, they cannot be recovered. Supporting SB 77 and SB 78 is essential to keeping these lands in production and accessible to those who steward them.

I urge you to support these critical bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Adam Sunshine