

Submitter: KATHALEEN PARKER  
On Behalf Of: 1000 Friends of Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

SB 77: Would prevent elite developers' abuse of "home occupations" on agricultural and forest land.

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.

The home occupation provision is vaguely written and has become a loophole to allow hospitality, entertainment, and other commercial uses in exclusive farm and forest use zones, evading the legislature's specific requirements for such nonfarm and non-forest uses.

What it does: A loophole in the statutory provisions for "home occupation" businesses in rural homes is being abused to allow large-scale hospitality and entertainment facilities on land designated for agricultural and timber production.

This legislation would close the loophole by clarifying the definition of "home occupations" and providing clear and objective standards to ensure the primary use of a rural home is residential and not commercial.

Why it matters: Oregon land use law allows people living in exclusive farm and forest use zones to operate small businesses, called "home occupations," within their homes, such as bookkeeping services or small-scale childcare facilities.

As a home owner, I am asking you to support Oregon by working to balance the need to protect our valuable natural resources with the evolving needs of its future communities.

It's time for the legislature to again pay serious attention to Oregon's farm, range, and forest land.

The longer we ignore these issues, the more we do irreparable damage to Oregon's precious resource lands and the families that work hard to feed our communities. Once we lose these lands, we can never go back. Oregon's farmers, ranchers, and timberland managers deserve better.

If the legislature fails to act this session, we face two more years of continuing, irreparable harm to our working lands and the economic stronghold that is Oregon agriculture and forestry.

Thank You