

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77
Chair & Committee Members,

I am here today to provide testimony regarding the allowances and restrictions for home occupations on lands zoned for forest or farm use. As we all know, zoning regulations are established to balance the rights of landowners with the need for community development and environmental preservation. However, there are times when the current zoning designations and their limitations on home occupations can either hinder or create unnecessary burdens for landowners and existing businesses.

Lands zoned for forest or farm use often represent a significant portion of our community's rural areas and many businesses in these areas, such as wedding venues, wine tasting rooms, bed and breakfasts, and so much more.

These properties offer opportunities for small-scale business ventures that do not disrupt the surrounding environment or harm agricultural operations. Continuing to allow home occupations can empower landowners to diversify their incomes, support local economies, and reduce unnecessary strain on commercial zoning areas. This is especially true for individuals who want to stay on their land but need additional means to support their livelihood.

The right to use one's land for a small business can offer economic benefits while preserving the rural and natural character of the area. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this piece of legislation. It is unnecessary and an extreme overreach of government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.