

Submitter: Bonnie Hildebrand
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 78. I urge you to support this bill.

I am an Oregonian who supports SB 78.

SB 78 deals with speculative land pricing for high-end residential development, fixing misuse of “replacement dwelling” provisions, while protecting the ability for homeowners in farm and forest zones to replace a home lost to natural disaster or decay. This helps stop conversion of thousands of acres of resource land into elite residences at the expense of working farmers and timberland managers.

I have personally seen this in my rural area where small homes on working land have been torn down and mansions, many thousand square feet of home, have been built, along with large outbuildings for housing personal vehicles, not farm machinery. The people buying and living in these homes are not farmers or foresters. They are taking advantage of the loophole to have a luxury rural home.

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.

Please stop the land speculation and conversion of Oregon’s limited agricultural and forest land by supporting this bill.

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