

Statement of OLAWA, the Oregon Land And Water Alliance In Support of Senate Bill 77

My name is Eva Eagle, and I live northeast of Sisters, Oregon. I am the President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land and Water Alliance. The Oregon Land and Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in support of this bill on behalf of OLAWA, and its Board of Directors.

We live in a rural area near Sisters where many people run a small business out of our homes. Increasingly, however, we find that the vague provisions in the current law create an opening to establish hotel-like businesses and large entertainment venues. The 'home occupation' may not even be run by the home owners themselves.

With the adoption of SB77, we can implement common sense restrictions such as employing no more than five additional persons, prohibiting large lighted signage, and clearing land to park more than three client vehicles. Such steps are essential to insuring that businesses run as home occupations involve work that is "incidental and subordinate to the primary use of the dwelling for residential use," rather than large businesses disguised as homeowner operations.

SB77 offers significant protection for rural lands and lifestyle. We strongly urge you to pass it into law.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue.

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