



*Protecting Our Natural Heritage
From the Coast to the Cascades*

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March 4, 2025

SUBJECT: SB 77

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.

LandWatch Lane County is a small 501C(3) organization that was established in 1997. Our mission is to protect farm and forest lands for farm and forest uses, and to protect natural resources for future generations.

We wholeheartedly support this Bill. Contrary to some opinions, It does not take anything away from anyone; what it does is establish some reasonable sideboards for home occupations in the resource zones. The fact is that home occupations have not been subject to rigorous or punitive approval criteria, and this bill does not change that.

The reality is that home occupation permits are being approved for operations that are more commercial than single family residential in scale and which, more and more often, are incompatible with uses typically expected in a residential dwelling or associated structure located in a resource zone.

When loopholes in laws are exploited for whatever reason, actions taken to reign in the problems associated with the loopholes are not actions that take away peoples' rights. If the so-called 'right' to do whatever wasn't an explicit right in the first place, providing clarity about the type of uses that meet the criteria for home occupations in the resource zones isn't an assault on anyone's rights.

Oregon's farm and forest zoned lands for resource use must be protected for those uses. Please vote YES on moving this bill forward.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Segel. LandWatch Lane County