

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB77

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 77, which outlines allowable home occupations on lands zoned for forest or farm use. While I understand the need to regulate land use, I believe this bill imposes unnecessary restrictions that could negatively impact local economies and the livelihoods of residents in these areas.

Home occupations can play a vital role in supporting families and fostering entrepreneurship, particularly in rural communities. Many residents rely on home-based businesses to supplement their income or pursue their passions, and restricting these occupations could stifle innovation and economic growth. By limiting the types of businesses that can operate in forest and farm zones, the bill risks undermining the economic resilience of these communities.

Additionally, the bill's provisions may not adequately consider the unique characteristics of rural areas. Many home occupations operate on a small scale and have minimal impact on their surroundings. Imposing stringent regulations could force small business owners to relocate or shut down entirely, resulting in lost jobs and diminished local services.

Furthermore, the bill may inadvertently create barriers for residents who wish to start or expand their home-based businesses. Many individuals in rural areas have the skills and resources to contribute significantly to their communities through innovative business models. Limiting their ability to do so restricts the potential for economic diversification and community development.

Instead of imposing rigid restrictions, I urge lawmakers to explore more flexible and collaborative approaches that empower residents to engage in home occupations while ensuring that such activities are compatible with their surroundings. This could include establishing guidelines that focus on mitigating potential impacts rather than outright limitations.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask you to oppose SB 77 and advocate for policies that support entrepreneurship, economic diversity, and the rights of individuals to utilize their property as they see fit. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.