



**Oregon
Winegrowers**
ASSOCIATION EST 1981

Public Comments on Senate Bill 77 and Senate Bill 78

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

March 6, 2025

The Oregon Winegrowers Association is a member-driven advocacy organization advancing the interests of the largest agricultural economic impact sector in Oregon. We have hundreds of winery and vineyard members representing over two-thirds of Oregon's wine production. For more than 40 years, OWA has advocated for policies that support the health, growth and economic sustainability of Oregon's wine industry.

Land use is a core policy area for OWA. We have a dedicated Land Use & Natural Resources Committee made up of members from across the state where we discuss impacts of land use policies on our wine businesses and rural communities. We recognize protections, privileges and limitations offered by Oregon's complex land use system. Many vineyard sites were designated for real estate development and were spared by passage of Senate Bill 100. With the creation of the permitted use winery statute, many privileges are provided outright with a minimum 15 planted vineyard acres. The conditional use pathway also offers wine businesses who do not meet the acreage requirement to seek approval for their activities by counties as a commercial activity in conjunction with farm use (CACFU). Others are seeking creative ways to enter the wine business utilizing pathways like home occupations and farm stands. Recognizing our unique privileges, our industry sought to place parameters on commercial activities and events at permitted use wineries with Senate Bill 841, while reaffirming the CACFU pathway. This was the culmination of years of debate and compromise and ultimately passed unanimously. There has been substantial growth in the last twelve years, and we continually discuss what is working and not working in our land use system. There is a careful balance to be sought to protect farmland while enabling thriving ag businesses.

While OWA is neutral on SB 77 and SB 78 we would like to be part of the conversation as these bills evolve during the 2025 session.