

Dear Chair Meek, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support the -2 amendment to SB 485.

My name is Theresa Hausser and my wife and I own almost 40 acres of forestland in Vida in Lane County.

2023's estate tax exemption for natural resource lands honored the value of family managed working land remaining as such. This is legislation that makes it far more likely that heirs can retain their family land and not have to sell it to pay inheritance taxes.

However, the requirements to prove that heirs are maintaining family working lands as family working lands are designed more for livestock and short rotation crops, than they are designed for family forests. The -2 amendment in SB 485 remedies that shortcoming by acknowledging the different time commitments necessary to maintain forestlands and adjusting the requirements accordingly.

The -2 amendment is a responsive solution to a forestland specific oversight in legislation designed to allow heirs to family working lands to continue to maintain their working lands. Its adoption seems like a win for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.