

Submitter: Susan Lowden Spring
On Behalf Of: Earle Lowden Legacy Tree Farm LLC
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB485

The Earle Lowden Legacy Tree Farm LLC is a 3rd generation 317 acre timbered parcel near Sodaville, Oregon. The LLC was named after a previous generation member. On the will of the owner was a statement that he wanted the property to stay in the family and be managed as a tree farm with priority for the timber to be harvested under the principal of sustained yield. The 2023 estate tax exemption was a blessing in being able to accomplish the previously mentioned goal. The wording in the bill fit well for family farms growing short term crops and commercial fishing owners, but was not geared to long term crops such as growing timber. SB 485-2 corrects this oversight by actually addressing timber management activities a family needs to perform in order to qualify for the exemption and being able to grow trees for the long term. Without this amendment to the original bill, the requirements to qualify for the exemption are very subjective and do not fit the activities of actual forest management. Our family plans on growing trees for a longer rotation before harvest and having to cut young timber to pay the Oregon death tax defeats this objective as logs are the only revenue for the LLC. Please vote to pass SB 485-2.