

May 6, 2025

RE: Support for SB485-2

Dear Chair Meek and Members on Senate Committee of Finance & Revenue:

My name is Francesca Cafferata and I am the daughter of Wylda and Steve Cafferata. We are small woodland owners who own and manage 345 acres of forest land spread over four tree farms in Lane, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. I am a consulting Certified Wildlife Biologist® and the owner of a small wildlife consulting firm. The focus of my work is to assist large and small landowners to manage intentionally for wildlife. I also help my parents manage our forests for Wood, Water, Wildlife, and Recreation. After my parents pass on, I will be inheriting the forest along with my three older brothers, and together we will continue to manage the property. The-2 amendment will make it possible for us to utilize the natural resource property tax exemption.

SB485-2 provides an estate tax exemption for natural resource property and creates separate qualification requirements for the exemption for small forest landowners to better meet appropriate management activities for forest operations. All four of our tree farms are certified as meeting the International Standards of Sustainability under the American Tree Farm System. This certification ensures that our forests provide the benefits of a sustainable timber supply, clean air, clean water, safe roads, wildlife habitat, and much more. The activities we carry out to provide these benefits are those described in the 485-2 amendment as appropriate management activities. We document these activities in our tree farm management plans as we accomplish them.

I believe strongly that active management of Oregon's forest land benefits all Oregonians. SB485-2 is well-written and helps ensure that forestland owned by small forest landowners will continue to be well-managed over the next generations. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francesca Cafferata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.