

May 6, 2025

RE: Support for SB485-2

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

My name is Glenn Steed and I live in Columbia County, Oregon. I help my partner, Francesca Cafferata and her family manage 345 acres of forest land spread over four tree farms in Lane, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. We manage our forests for Wood, Water, Wildlife, and Recreation. Francesca will inherit the forest along with her brothers from her parents and we will continue to manage the property. The -2 amendment will make it possible for them 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 their tree farms are certified to the International Standards of Sustainability under the American Tree Farm System. This certification ensures that their 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.

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,

*Glenn Steed*