

Submitter: Larry Konnie
On Behalf Of: Swanson Bros. Lumber Co.
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB485

May 6, 2025

Senator Mark Meek, Chair

Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 485-2

Dear Chair Meek and Members of the Committee.

Our family owns a very small sawmill in Noti. We have approximately 1,200 acres of actively managed timberland, some of which has been in our family since the early 1960's. I'm a second-generation semi-retired owner. Our small sawmill and timberlands were passed down to me after my own parents died over twenty years ago. At that time, the amount of taxes we had to pay on my parent's estate, was staggering. This was due in large part to the timberland valuation.

My hope is to be able to pass the sawmill and all the timberlands on to my son. He is currently a part owner and actively managing our company. This amendment makes it much easier to meet the appropriate management activities levels for small timber land operations, and my ability to pass on our timber lands to him when I'm gone. Our company tree farm is integral to the long- term success of our sawmill, and the employment of over 70 people. The daily management of timberlands is significantly different then agricultural farming, and SB 498 as currently written, makes it very difficult for forest families to qualify for the exclusion as written. The -2 amendment fixes this problem and will ensure the ability of family tree farmers to pass on their family legacy; by keeping and maintaining their family forest lands for future generations.

The -2amendment provides the correct adjustment to the bill as originally written and will enable small tree farming families the ability to pass on their acreage for future generations.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Larry Konnie