

Submitter:

Van Decker

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB485

Chair Meek,

Vice Chair McLane and members of the committee.

I am Van Decker from Benton County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 485 -2 today. SB 485 -2 makes important updates to the natural resources estate tax exemption providing a practical method for qualified forest land owners who actively managed their lands for many years to retain and sustain their family forest after a passing of a family member.

We believe that creating separate qualifications for natural forest resource property taxes as per SB485- 2 will make it possible to have the property remain as a family tree farm instead of our children having to sell to someone who does not have the forest management experience that our family has. We have 2 sons, 1 daughter, and 5 grandsons who have helped operate the tree farm.

I am writing today to register my support for SB 485-2 amendment. Our family lives on and owns 250 acres of well managed forest land in Benton County. My family has been operating this tree farm for 130 years. We grow timber for lumber. Our efforts support Oregon's economy and environment and it is very important for our family to pass the heritage of working on our land to future generations,

We have been very active in the Small Woodlands Association and the Philomath High School Forestry Program.

We ask for your support in passing SB 485-2.

Decker Tree Farm

Corvallis