

John and Pamela Dalton

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Subject: Support for SB 485 A as submitted

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I support SB 485 A as submitted. This bill is important to preserve family participation in small forestry. Intergenerational transfer of small forest lands in a smooth, predictable, and affordable manner is critical to continuity in managing these vital tracts for quality of production, environmental quality, and wildlife habitat.

Meeting draconian inheritance taxes is a major impetus to clearcutting stands of timber that would otherwise be managed over a much longer term and usually with much greater environmental quality and preservation of wildlife habitat. This is counterproductive to good stewardship of the land and the environment.

This bill makes application of the earlier tax reform easier to apply to small forest lands. It corrects details of the existing inheritance tax reform to apply properly to small forest land owners that were overlooked when that legislation was recently adopted. This does not create new tax breaks. It just recognizes that small forest land management is a long term process, and doesn't have the same daily activities and record-keeping as other family businesses. This is especially true as small forest landowner's age and are less physically active.

My wife and I were recently recognized for her ownership of a property that has been in her family for over 100 years. Her grandfather bought the first acres in 1917, and seven generations of her family have lived on that small forest land. When we attended the award ceremony, we chatted with other families receiving the Century Farm award. It was striking how difficult it is to keep a piece of land in one family for 100 years. Please recognize that families love their land and treat it with respect.

Make SB 485 A law.

Sincerely,

John and Pamela Dalton

Dallas, OR