

Submitter:

Leah Saroni

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB485

My name is Leah Larson Saroni. I am the 5th generation in my family to be born in Oregon. Most of our family Tree Farm is located just outside of the town of Yamhill, in Yamhill County. That portion is 600 acres of Douglas Fir. We also have 200 acres of forestland in Willamina. My Great Grandfather acquired the tree farm in Yamhill in the early 1900's.

When my Grandmother died in the late 1970's, it took 15 years to recover and pay for the estate tax burden on our family. Sadly, estate taxes have required that multi-generational Oregon tree farm families have had to clear cut in order to pay inheritance taxes. This further diminishes their ability to environmentally and ethically steward the land. Monies that could be spent enriching and further nurturing the land is instead spent on the estate taxes. This greatly reduces the landowner's ability to invest in the property for future generations.

As a 5th generation descendent of pioneers on one of the Lost Wagon Trains to arrive in Oregon on October 30, 1853, I plead to you to help us continue to be a part of the rich history of Oregon, it's pioneers, and most importantly, steadfast stewards of the forestlands. Please support and vote YES on SB 485 A. Thank you for your time and service.