



FROM: Senator Betsy Close
TO: Members of the Oregon Senate
Re: **Support for HB 3125-A**

In 1995, this body enacted legislation designed, in part, to allow “Mom and Pop” to keep a parcel smaller than the 80 acre minimum, including a home, when selling timberlands to a large forestland owner, provided that no new dwelling may be constructed on either the parcel sold or retained. In this way, Mom and Pop may stay in their home and, at the same time, realize on the value of their timberlands.

Unfortunately, due to a drafting error, the 1995 legislation required Mom and Pop to retain all 80 acres if either parcel includes a home. This, of course, undercuts the very purpose of the 1995 legislation.

Without HB 3125-A, Mom and Pop could be forced to choose between their home and funding their retirement. Because no new homes would result, and the land would stay in forest use, no policy rationale supports requiring Mom and Pop to make this decision.

HB 3125-A would remove the errant requirement that Mom and Pop retain 80 acres with their home.

The bill is supported by Oregon’s land owning community, and has received no testimony or vote in opposition.

Please join me, and the organizations above, in supporting HB 3125-A.

**Senator Betsy Close
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