

TESTIMONY OF GILBERT SHIRLEY, Clackamas County

I am Gilbert Shibley residing on Wallens Rd near Estacada where two great grandfathers settled after a journey over the Oregon Trail. This already hints at why I think this bill is good for Oregon. It takes generations to achieve what a second dwelling can mean for a family to become tied to the land. Some have been at it years, some decades.

When they live there next generations are always family, always learning while helping. They develop over time as members of the work force and eventually have input to management. This child worked with Grandma on light duty, low skill tasks. As a teen I worked with Dad handling machinery and even chainsaws, eventually learning that I might become a partner as he had been with his dad and granddad. I also learned his goal was for us to be partners with the land not just each other

With such ties to the land people love it and will work hard to overcome many barriers to keeping it, like this bill if it passes. They share work with their elders full or part time. Living there the kids will get into the story. We parents are fortunate to have the 5th generation own shares in our two LLCs. As such they already influence management decisions. Some could become on-site managers. They and their children also bring digital skills. We love it.

Grandpa Shibley “grandfathered” us into a 2nd dwelling used for both farm and forest. Happily for most of 155 years those homes have helped us stay, like our oldest trees have.

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