



Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

**Re: Support for SB 77 and SB 78  
Protecting Farm/Forest Lands**

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by providing technical services and supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers, and with federal, state and nonprofit partners.

Protection of farm and forest land under the Department of Land Conservation and Development's longstanding Land Use Goals 3 and 4 is critical to maintaining the agriculture and forestry land base upon which our natural resource-based industries and conservation efforts rely. These two bills would support continuing conservation by curtailing the displacement of essential working lands and the impacts from transportation and other issues that interfere with agriculture and forestry practices.

- SB 77 would prevent abuse of "home occupations" on agricultural and forest land by development such as hotel, entertainment, and resort facilities that drive up land prices and preclude farm and forest operators from securing those lands for production and conservation efforts.
- SB 78 would limit the size of replacement dwellings on agricultural and forest lands so that homeowners in farm and forest zones can replace their homes lost to natural disasters or other issues while assuring siting of elite residences and large facilities would be precluded. There are some existing requirements in statute, but they are not well enough defined to allow county planners to effectively make decisions.

We appreciate the legislature's serious attention to Oregon's farm, range and forestlands as the longer we ignore these challenges, the more seriously these lands are irreparably impacted. If these lands are lost they cannot be replaced. We urge you to vote "yes" on both bills.

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Lee".

Jan Lee, President