

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of: LandWatch Lane County
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB78

Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire
Committee:

Please accept the following comments on my own behalf and on behalf of
LandWatch Lane County, the 501(c)3 non-profit I head. LandWatch has worked for
almost 30 years with neighbors throughout Lane County to protect farm and forest
land, natural areas and open spaces.

When I came from the deep south in 1965, I was in awe of the natural beauty and
character of this state. And I was amazed and grateful to learn that efforts were
underway to protect the qualities responsible for my appreciation and sorely missing
in the states I'd left behind. I was even more amazed to learn that that work was led
by a Republican governor and other advocates who not only shared my zeal but were
busy building a base for the legislation that resulted in SB 100.

For over 50 years SB 100 has been critical to the protection of Oregon's farm and
forest land economy and served as an unprecedented model for the nation against
urbanizing developments on rural lands. Unfortunately, among other incursions, in
those years we've seen an extraordinary proliferation of unrelated and irrelevant uses
permitted in farm and forest zones that have driven prices up and kept farmers and
foresters out.

The bills before you would help curb this epidemic:

SB 77 honors the intent of the home occupation statute to keep home occupations in-
home as secondary to the primary occupation and activities in farm and forest zones.
SB 78 requires that a replacement dwelling be of the same size and scale of the
dwelling it is replacing instead of merely an opportunity to build an inappropriate and
out-of-scale non-farm residence.

These modest proposals would provide some reasonable and overdue protections for
our vulnerable rural lands, and we ask for your support. Thanks for your hearing on
these bills and for the opportunity to address them.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County

