

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB78

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 78, which seeks to establish maximum size restrictions on replacement dwellings located on lands zoned for forest or farm use. I believe it will have detrimental effects on landowners, local economies, and our communities.

Firstly, imposing size limitations on replacement dwellings undermines the rights of property owners to manage their own land according to their needs and circumstances. Many families have invested significant resources into their properties, and restricting the size of replacement homes can lead to financial hardship and decreased property values. This bill effectively penalizes those who wish to maintain or improve their living conditions in line with their lifestyle and family needs.

Moreover, this legislation could hinder rural development and discourage potential residents and businesses from settling in these areas. Many families and individuals are drawn to the rural lifestyle for its tranquility and connection to nature. By enforcing such restrictive measures, we risk stifling growth and innovation in regions that could benefit from increased investment and community development.

Additionally, the bill does not take into account the various factors that contribute to the size of dwellings, such as family size, local economic conditions, and the need for multi-generational living arrangements. These factors are essential in understanding the diverse needs of residents in forest and farm zones. A one-size-fits-all approach does not serve the unique circumstances of these communities.

Finally, I urge lawmakers to consider alternative measures that promote sustainable land use without infringing on property rights. Engaging in more collaborative and flexible planning processes with local communities can yield better outcomes while preserving the integrity of our forest and farm lands.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask you to oppose SB 78 and advocate for policies that support property rights, promote responsible development, and foster thriving rural communities. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.