

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

Dear Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 78, which would prohibit homeowners from rebuilding their homes to exceed 2,500 square feet or more than 10% larger than their previous residence, even in the wake of a wildfire or natural disaster.

This proposed legislation represents a troubling overreach of government authority and a direct infringement on the property rights of Oregonians. In moments of devastation caused by natural disasters, homeowners deserve compassion, support, and the ability to rebuild their lives—not restrictive mandates dictating the size of their homes.

SB 78 unfairly penalizes homeowners who have already suffered significant losses. Rebuilding a home is not merely a matter of constructing a structure; it is an emotional and financial investment in restoring stability, security, and a sense of normalcy. By imposing arbitrary limits, this bill would deny families the opportunity to rebuild their homes as they see fit, adding unnecessary stress and uncertainty to an already difficult process.

Furthermore, the proposed restrictions do not account for individual circumstances, such as the evolving needs of a household or the desire to incorporate modern designs, energy efficiency, or other upgrades. Oregonians should not have to choose between adhering to rigid regulations and rebuilding their dream homes.

I urge you to consider the negative impact SB 78 would have on property rights, personal freedoms, and the well-being of families recovering from disasters. I respectfully ask the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that empower Oregonians to rebuild their lives without unnecessary governmental interference.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Rachael Wight