



March 8, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Suzi Maresh, Friends of Linn County

Friends of Linn County is an independent non-profit organization composed of volunteers, formed in the 1970s to fight the loss of productive farm and forest lands to development. Friends of Linn County does so by making sure that proposed zoning changes and proposed land use permit requests are compliant with Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals, state law, and the Linn County Comprehensive Plan. Friends of Linn County also monitors and comments on proposed bills and laws at the Oregon State Legislature that may affect land use.

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire, on behalf of myself and Friends of Linn County, thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 78.

My partner and I purchased the old Anthony brothers' family farm 30 years ago, which included the original, circa-late-1800s farmhouse. We currently grow grass seed and hay, raise Angus cattle, and keep a small flock of laying hens.

We are excited as we begin construction in the next few weeks of a much-needed replacement dwelling for the old farmhouse. Our replacement dwelling was approved some time ago, but nevertheless, the provisions of SB 78 would in no way restrict our ability to build the home that meets our needs.

SB 78 would impose common-sense limitations on the size of replacement dwellings and support the sustainability of the farmland and forestland for the purposes these lands are intended to serve. We ask for your support of SB 78.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzi Maresh, Friends of Linn County