



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 6, 2025

To: Chair [Senator Golden](#) & Members of the [Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire](#)

Re: [SB 77](#) – Home Occupations on Farm and Forest Lands – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports SB 77 based on our positions in support of Oregon’s statewide land use planning program. Since the advent of statewide goals to protect natural resource land, we have testified in support of policies to promote the preservation and appropriate development of agricultural and forest land to maintain the viability of working farms and forest lands.

One of the main threats to preserving and maintaining productive farmland is urbanization through commercial and non-farm uses on agricultural and forest lands. Home occupations have been notoriously undefined in Oregon statute. This has allowed prime farmland and pristine forestland to be usurped for use as the site of commercial businesses and large entertainment venues. These impactful commercial non-farm or forest uses have proliferated to the point of threatening the viability of adjacent farms and ranches in some areas of the state. This bill provides a clear definition of home-based occupations and the conditions under which they may be operated.

SB 77 clarifies what home-based businesses are allowable uses on farm and forest resource land in Oregon. The original statute was intended to allow a farm family to operate a farm related business to help supplement farm income or to operate a small business not related to the farm operation but contained within an owner occupant’s personal dwelling. A home-based business on farmland was intended to be either directly related to or incidental to the operation of the agricultural business that is the primary use of the land.

Your support of SB 77 is critical for protecting the productive use of agricultural and forest lands in Oregon. Any delay in passing this bill to the House floor will be a lost opportunity to honor the legacy of this legislature to safeguard farm and forest land in the state,

We urge you to support SB 77.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lynch".

Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra U. Bishop".

Sandra U. Bishop
Agricultural Land Issues