

## Testimony on SB 485 A, by Harold and Patricia Nygren

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, and members of the Committee:

Subject: Please support SB 485 A

We own several small woodland properties in Washington and Douglas County, totaling 220 acres. We have owned some of this property since 1994, with additional parcels added in 1998 and 2017. This property is managed for many forestland values, but the underlying management objective is for timber products. We see this property as a family legacy, with our four children designated in an LLC as the inheritors of the LLC. Our children are committed to continuing to sustainably manage our forestland in the future.

We appreciate the very important provision of the original SB 485 to make the estate tax supportive of the long term objectives and recognition of how this makes income production dependent on consistent involvement of ownership over many years. However, the qualification requirements for the natural resource property tax exemption for small forest landowners need to be adjusted in order to better meet the appropriate management activities for small forest land operations.

Specifically, the existing requirement to materially participate 75% of the days of the two five year periods needs to be replaced with requirements to actively manage the land appropriate for the present forestland.

SB 485 A replaces that unworkable rule with a sensible, **forest-specific pathway** proving "active management appropriate to a decades-long rotation."

SB 485 A isn't a new tax break. It simply **clarifies and fixes** the existing \$15 million exemption so family forest owners can actually access it, helping keep forests in family hands and managed responsibly for the long term.

With this change – in the SB 485 A amendment – the intent of the original legislation would be practically and equitably met. SB 485 A isn't a new tax break. It simply **clarifies and fixes** the existing \$15 million exemption so family forest owners can actually access it, helping keep forests in family hands and managed responsibly for the long term.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Harold and Patricia Nygren  
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