Thank you rules committee,

I am Matt Stevenson and I live on stolen Multnomah, Kalapuya, Cowlitz, Clatskanie, Clackamas, and Molalla land, and I urge you to advance the nominees to the Board of Forestry. These nominees would push Oregon away from toxic and destructive forestry practices and towards using our forests to fight the climate crisis, lessen the risk of wildfire, and protect Oregon communities.

As a high schooler, I have grown up with the threat of climate change always imperiling my future. Recently I learned about the unique properties of Oregon's forests – they can store more carbon per acre than any other in the world and would be essential in combatting the climate crisis. But we aren't taking advantage of this special potential, the industrial forestry advanced by this Board are the single largest cause of emissions in Oregon.

Last summer I experienced the devastating effects of our forestry practices. Monoculture plantations and frequent logging furthered by the Board made forests drier and thinner, causing fire to spread rapidly. Toxic smoke spread all around Oregon, and I feared that any time outside, any window left open, would exacerbate my asthma, and scar my lungs for life. How did we get to this point, when one of Oregon's most special aspects is being used to imperil our futures, and harm our health?

One answer to that question is the lack of action from the Board of Forestry. For years this Board, which almost half of the forests in Oregon, has prioritized industrial forestry practices, which exacerbate climate change and wildfire. But we cannot continue on this path, we cannot continue to decimate the climate and Oregon's communities!

The first step to change is advancing Ben Deumling, Karla Chambers, and Chandra Ferrari to the Oregon Board of Forestry, which will make the Board will shift its values, and value our future, and our communities, above the profits of out-of-state private equity firms.

I urge you to confirm the proposed nominees to the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Thank you