

Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments,

On behalf of 350PDX, a grassroots organization working to address the causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions, we urge you to vote to advance the slate of nominees proposed for the Board of Forestry. Oregon's forests are already being impacted by the climate crisis, and have the potential to help mitigate the climate crisis through their carbon storage and their role in protecting watersheds which provide water for many communities. Unfortunately, Oregon's Department of Forestry has done little to change its policies in response to our changing climate. We believe that this slate of candidates will result in a more balanced Board that provides the leadership that is needed to manage our forests with a climate focus.

The need for a liveable climate is not a special interest issue — it's universal. From wildfire smoke to property damage from fire, from ocean acidification to unreliable water supplies, Oregonians are already suffering from the disastrous effects of climate change, with the majority of the damage suffered by rural communities.

The Board currently endorses and oversees industrial logging practices that greatly reduce the amount of carbon stored in Oregon's forests compared to their potential and degrade forest health for future generations. With better practices, Oregon's Western forests could sequester as much or more carbon per acre as any forest ecosystem in the world. They also harm our forests' ability to adapt to the long-term effects of climate change. Some industrial logging practices allowed by the Board also harm Oregonians by contaminating community drinking water with pesticides and sediment, contributing to drought and flooding, and increasing the risk of extreme wildfire seasons.

The Board has failed to take concrete action to increase forest carbon storage in Oregon, despite their mandate to do so according to Goal G, first set out in the 2003 Forestry Program for Oregon. Under the Board's supervision, the State Forester's unwillingness to address climate change became especially apparent in the ODF's response to Executive Order 20-04 which failed to meaningfully address logging practices that limit carbon storage. We hope that the Board of Forestry, under the direction of current members who have been pushing for change and joined by these three nominees, can begin to prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation at the Oregon Department of Forestry.



These three nominees each bring their own strengths to the Board. We appreciated the opportunity for 350PDX to get to talk with each nominee, and thank them for their time.

Ben Deumling is the owner and President of Zena Forest Products, a family-owned business focused on ecological forestry. As a small woodland owner and conservationist, he's the kind of voice we need on the Board to represent the future of climate-smart forestry in Oregon.

Chandra Ferrari is an attorney with the nonprofit Trout Unlimited, and she's an expert in water policy. She has advocated for policies that would benefit native cold-water fish, and knows the water quality, temperature, and quantity issues associated with forestry inside and out. She has worked in the government and nonprofit sectors, so she understands how state agencies operate. As a Board member, we believe she would work to increase the pace of action on climate issues at the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Karla Chambers owns and operates Stahlbush Island Farms. She has served on the Ford Foundation, the Federal Reserve's Portland Branch board of directors, the board of Hampton Lumber, and the Governor's Wildfire Council. In our conversation she expressed interest in addressing some of the management and financial challenges at the Department of Forestry.

This slate balances different interests on the Board, and brings useful skills to the Board. The nominees are knowledgeable and qualified, and the Senate should vote to confirm the slate. 350PDX has asked Governor Brown to nominate Board members that would bring deeper knowledge of climate science and more diverse voices to the Board. This slate does not provide those necessary perspectives on the Board, and we hope that future nominees will fill those roles.

Thank you for your time and your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Felice Kelly and Leslie Grush
On behalf of 350PDX Forest Defense Team