

Hello Chair Wagner and committee members. My name is James. I live in Portland and I am testifying in support of the current slate of nominees for the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Symptoms of the climate crisis were experienced first hand last fall as wildfires raged through the northwest blanketing the skies with smoke. We must address these immediate threats and many more to come. We need a fully staffed board of forestry to move towards transforming the way Oregon forests are managed, so that we can truly honor their importance. According to the OSU College of Forestry's recent study, the forests of Oregon offer great potential for sequestering atmospheric carbon. These findings should empower the Board of Forestry to make big strides in restoring the forests and combating global climate change. They must implement meaningful changes in the state's logging operations. Current industrial logging practices permitted by the Board contribute to watershed contamination, extreme weather, and higher risk of natural disasters.

Due to the lack of a functional Board of Forestry and a disregard for industrial impacts, indigenous land treaties have not been honored, the land has not been respected and endangered wildlife, like the Northern spotted owl and salmon populations, has been put at risk. Indigenous knowledge about controlled burns and sustainable practices can only begin to be considered once we have a full Board of Forestry working together. The current slate of nominees represents a shift towards sustainable forest management. Though the logging industry is still partly represented within the Board of Forestry and its nominees, if the slate is approved it should tip in favor of a more sustainable approach to forest stewardship. You must pass these nominees in order for us to begin the work our forests need.

Thank you members of the committee.