



My name is Julia, and I am testifying on behalf of Sunrise Movement PDX, a youth-led organization focused on climate justice. First of all, I want to thank you all for allowing this opportunity for public testimony.

With four open seats on the Oregon Board of Forestry, we feel that it is necessary to voice the importance of approving the new slate of nominees. In the past, the main purpose of the Board of Forestry has been to find the most efficient and cost-effective ways to cut down as many trees as possible. But it is crucial that we create a Board that is fully aware of the repercussions that logging has on climate change. A study by the OSU College of Forestry found that our forests can store more carbon per acre than anywhere else on Earth, which means that Oregon must play an important part in fighting global climate change. But unfortunately, with the current practices advanced by the Board, we are instead releasing millions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere, making the timber industry the single leading cause of carbon emissions in Oregon. We are in a climate emergency that threatens not just our future, but our present; there is no time for further neglect of real climate action.

In these past few years, one way we have directly experienced the effects of climate change is through our wildfires. In 2020 alone, wildfires spread across 1 million acres of our state, severely damaging over 4,000 Oregon homes, devastating lives and communities. Not to mention the days on end of toxic smoke, which disproportionately affected low-income communities and houseless people. By using responsible and sustainable forest practices, we would not only be working to fight climate change, but we would also dramatically decrease the risk of widespread wildfires. This is because frequently logged, unhealthy forest areas catch fire rapidly and burn at higher severity. In order to keep both of these issues into consideration, we need to have Board members with experience in climate conservation and wildfire prevention.

This is why it is crucial for our state to confirm the proposed slate of nominees to the Board of Forestry: Chandra Ferrari, Ben Deumling, and Karla Chambers. Karla Chambers is on the council for wildfire response and on the board of Hampton Lumber, giving her a key connection between wildfires and the Timber industry. She knows how we can work to harvest forests in a way that will make them less prone to widespread fire. Chandra Ferrari is an attorney and senior policy advisor at Trout Unlimited, a non-profit that works to protect and restore Oregon's rivers. Through her work experience, she has a strong background in environmental activism, which would give the board someone who can advocate for fighting climate change. Finally, Ben Deumling practices sustainable forestry for his own small business, so he understands that we can create a more ecological approach to tree harvest.

By approving these nominees, there would be representation from not just people in the Timber industry, but from the variety of backgrounds and occupations that Oregonians hold, like in

wildfire prevention and climate justice. All of these groups need to be represented when making decisions for the future of our forests. We sincerely hope that you pass these nominees so that the Board of Forestry will finally reflect the values of our community.

Thank you