

To: Senator Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee
From: Rand Schenck
Date: March 12, 2021
Re: SB 335-2 Revising Governance of Department of Forestry

I strongly support SB 335-2 and encourage this Committee to approve this much needed bill designed to ensure a much more effective approach to the governance of the Department of Forestry.

We know that a central principle of good governance is that public policy should be as free as possible from those with a financial stake in those policies. Therefore, reducing the number of members who have conflicts of interest due to ties to the timber industry from three to two makes eminent sense. Also do require that one of those two represent small woodland owners.

Simply put the Board of Forestry, which is comprised of volunteers, is not in a strong position to provide performance management to the State Forester. Hiring and firing responsibility belongs to the Governor. Our states highest elected official should have that responsibility especially in light of the increased threats of catastrophic wildfires and climate change.

In addition, I support eliminating the Regional Forest Practices Act Committees which are not representative of all the many folks who have a stake in forest practices.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck
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