

March 16, 2021

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and Members of the Committee,

Our names are Wylda and Steve Cafferata. We are small woodland owners who own and manage the Cafferata Family Forest LLC with timberland in Lane, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. We are very concerned about proposed legislation in Sections 1 and 4 of the Amendment to SB 335.

Section 1 reduces the number of woodland owners on the Board of Forestry from three to two. While we are appreciative that one of these two be a small woodland owner, it seems extremely important that the Board of Forestry have members with first-hand experience with the implementation of regulations relating to forestry. It seems reasonable to propose retaining the three representatives, and specify that one represent east-side forestry, one west, and one small woodland interests. We do not understand why lack of experience with forestry has been set as the general criteria for board membership. No other boards we know of have similar restrictions. (The Teachers Standards and Practices Commission, for example, is composed of educators.)

We have similar concerns about Section 4 of the Amendment, which eliminates the Regional Forest Practice Committees. It is extremely important that the Board of Forestry receive input from knowledgeable forestry experts from around the state so that unintended consequences of proposed regulations can be avoided. Forest owners from around the state are in the best position to provide the Board with the practical information it needs to make informed decisions. We urge you to keep the Regional Forest Practice Committees intact.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information or discussion at 541-797-7934 or wyldac@gmail.com.

Wylda Cafferata
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