

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and members Kennemer, Patterson, & Prozanski.

I write today in strong support of SB335-2 to restructure some elements of the governance of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). These governance changes will accelerate ODF's adoption of modern, more science-based forestry practices, protect our rural communities, improve the health of our state forests, guard the future of our water supplies, and improve their ability to store carbon, while retaining necessary ties to the timber industry. Specifically,

* SB-335 broadens the accountability of Board of Forestry (BoF) to all Oregonians by reducing the number of Board members with conflict of interest ties to the timber industry from 3 to 2 out of 7 and requires one of those 2 to be a small woodland owner. Furthermore it tightens the definition of conflict of interest by setting the level of income to be a conflict of interest at \$1000.

* SB-335 eliminates the Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committees. Each of these three standing committees have membership defined by law to be controlled by members with strong ties to the timber industry. These committees hence do not in any sense represent all Oregonians. All Oregonians have a stake in healthy forests, clean water, and outdoor recreation that are not represented by these committees. The current committees serve no other purpose than solely protecting timber interests and should be eliminated entirely.

* SB-335 adopts the common practice found widely across the Oregon Executive Branch by transferring authority to hire and fire the State Forester from the BoF to the governor. This entitlement to have the State Forester, a key member of the Executive Branch leadership team, be not responsible to Executive leader is an anachronism and must be changed.

Each of these changes are necessary to improve the accountability of the BoF and ODF to all Oregonians.

Thanks.
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