

Dear Chair Golden & members of Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire Recovery:

I volunteer with the Portland climate group MCAT (the Metro Climate Action Team), which is sponsored by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters.

I urge you to support of SB 335-2 to revise the governance of the Department of Forestry. For way too long, timber companies have dominated over the Department of Forestry. The changes in governance legislated by SB 335-2 will improve the health of our state forests, protect our rural communities, and enhance the ability of our Oregon forests' ability to sequester and store carbon.

I like house SB 335-2 because it:

1) Strengthens conflict of interest language for Board of Forestry (BoF) appointments by reducing the number of members who can have conflict of interest due to ties to the timber industry from the current 3 of 7 down to 2 of 7, requires one of the two timber members to be a small woodland owner and defines the income level that creates a conflict as \$1000.

2) Eliminates the Regional Forest Practices Act Committees. There are three of these standing committees. It is very alarming to hear that by law they must be controlled by people with strong ties to timber production. There are no such committees for conservation interests. This must change so that conservation plays a much bigger role, as well as sustainable cutting in our forests. No more clear cuts!

Oregon is known globally for its beautiful natural forests. They must be protected. Thus, the Department of Forestry must be revitalized to protect our forests and not just serve the interests of the timber industry.

Thank you so much for allowing me to share these thoughts with you!

Brian Etting