

To Senator Jeff Golden, Chair, Vice Chair Senator Heard, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

We are owners of a small (40-acre) organic tree farm in Clackamas County. Our property backs on a 192-acre piece of land that contains a portion of the North Fork of Eagle Creek, recently clear cut by Weyerhaeuser, then sold to a private party. As a result of this logging, there have been landslides on steep slopes adjacent to the creek and considerably less stream bank shade and protection. We are deeply concerned at the current forestry practices allowed in our state, determined by large timber companies who currently dominate the Board of Forestry decision making.

After considerable consideration and discussion, we are reversing our position on this bill, as worded. Although we completely support Board of Forestry reform and feel that it is currently totally industry-dominated, with decisions driven pretty much solely by economics without regard for the importance of forest ecology, upon further thought, we do not agree with many of the specifics regarding its reorganization. We agree with the goal of reapportioning board member demographics, but do not understand the \$1000 income limitation for the inclusion of a small woodland owner to sit on the board. We also feel that rather than abolishing the sitting committees, they should simply be reorganized to focus on the varied issues related to forest management. Lastly, we don't believe that the State Forester should be a position appointed by the governor, since the governor already appoints the board members. If this position were appointed by whomever is currently in office, it could simply turn into a political appointment without regard for expertise in the field.

We previously submitted a letter in support of SB 335 because we feel strongly that the Board of Forestry should have more stakeholders at the table. Forest management is extremely complex and about more than just economics. We hope that a bill will come forward that will represent a more balanced approach to state forestry, based on science, that will adequately address issues such as protections for streams and especially water supplies (both for individual and community situations), protections for soils and general forest ecosystem biodiversity. We also feel that state forests need to provide a protective anchor by being run on longer rotation cycles than the way the aggressive management of private forests is currently done.

Thank you for your diligence in overseeing and supporting the stated mission of the Board of Forestry's goal "to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests."

Sincerely,

Cathy and Roger Fantz  
Trillium Forest Farm  
Eagle Creek, Oregon