

SB 335 rightfully seeks to counter the imbalance in Oregon's forest policies that have resulted from the timber industry's long control of the forest policy narrative in Oregon. The industry's means have included lobbying, campaign contributions and other dark money strategies, like bankrolling the Linn County Timber Lawsuit.

In part, SB 335 seeks redress of the timber industry's majority on the Board of Forestry. With the current majority on the BOF industry has kept Oregon's forest practices well behind that of neighboring states in protecting water, wildlife habitat and providing safety for humans from the aerial spraying of herbicides. With majority on the OBF the industry has for years also prevented changes that are consistent with the latest environmental science.

SB 335 also righteously ends the appointment of special forestry advisory committees to the OBF by the timber industry and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Their appointments have heavily weighted the scale in favor of industry. SB 335 opens the door for more equal representation on committees by a range of stake holders as it should be in a democratic process.

Though SB 335 doesn't directly address the symbiotic relationship between the timber industry and the ODF, the department's policies, failed oversight function and the selling of timber rights to industry in order to gain a large portion of the department's working budget tell the story.

Moreover, head forester, Peter Daugherty, has defended in a public hearing the weak water protections kept in place by the timber industry's dominance on the BOF even though those protections resulted in a 1.2 million dollar federal grant loss for Oregon due to failure to clean up coastal streams from logging pollution.

Daugherty has also taken the blame for the near insolvency of the department due to failure to collect monies for fire fighting on private land that took place on his watch. However, ultimately the governor gets blamed for the shortcomings of the ODF as we witnessed in the broad criticism of Governor Brown after last year's wildfires.

SB 335 rightly allows the governor the authority to appoint or dismiss the head forester like any CEO who needs people in place she or he can trust and work with