

I am strongly opposed to this bill as it negates the power of the Board of Forestry and consolidates too much power in the hands of the Governor. It also does not provide for continuity in leadership in an agency that requires a long term vision for executing proper forestry provisions. I am also opposed to this bill as it reduces the representation of for people that it directly affects. As a manager, I must take the input of my people before implementing a policy or procedure, not only to obtain buy-in but also to ensure that I am not hindering their performance, creating inefficiencies, or actually causing a safety hazard. I cannot manage my people without understanding their jobs and the associated impacts, nor should the Board be made up of people creating regulations that will not be impacted by these regulations. The Board is not unduly influenced by the industry because there are multiple viewpoints. The timber industry makes up more than 35,000 jobs in rural communities, they need representation to ensure that they have an adequate voice. Now is not the time to reduce their voice nor it is time to upheave continuity and planning based on whims of who is elected.