

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for accepting my testimony. I am writing to oppose SB 335. As a former employee of the Oregon Department of Forestry as well as a citizen of Clatsop County (26% of our land base is managed by ODF), I am concerned that this bill as written is purposely removing people who have professional forestry knowledge from the leadership of the forestry department. Politics and the desires of environmental groups who do not believe in keeping working forests working are behind this. Do not fall for their propaganda. State forest lands should not be held captive by politicians or those with ulterior motives. It is extremely concerning that it is being proposed, only two of the seven members of the Board of Forestry would be allowed to have income from the forest. I can only imagine that the employees of the department want to have comfort that their leaders have actual on the ground knowledge and experience in the forest. It is no different than being on a ship with a captain who has never driven a ship before. Who wants to ride on that ship? The answer is - no one. You need people, so called "running the ship" or managing the department who have the understanding, experience, knowledge to make smart, educated decisions. Would you want a forester, such as myself running a hospital? Probably not. Hospitals should have Physicians and those experienced in health care making decisions for the customers health. Likewise, the state forests need to have foresters making decisions for the forest's health. Please oppose SB 335. Let us allow those with forestry experience have a voice on the Board of Forestry. It is not an unreasonable request.

Respectfully,
Jenny Johnson