

## SB335-3 Testimony

I am in opposition to all portions of the proposed Senate Bill 335 – 3.

In 2020, I retired from the Oregon Department of Forestry after spending 30+ years with the agency. Working with the Board of Forestry was both a pleasure, and at times, exceedingly frustrating. The Board of Forestry is constantly engaged in complex forestry and environmental issues, actions and policy. In its current makeup, the Board already suffers from a lack of experience and knowledge on many of these complex topics. Staff and other engaged partners are then challenged to inform and educate the well intentioned, but un-informed members of the Board. Having a minimum of 3 Board members with actual experience in forestry and natural resource management serves both Oregonians and the other Board members well. Reducing the number of forestry related professionals on the Board would result in longer policy making processes, cost more, and likely end up with a poorer product.

The Regional Forest Practices Committees currently serve an invaluable role in policy and regulation development in Oregon. With the lack of professional forestry experience on the Board, this makes these committees of subject matter professionals even more important. Rule and policy development in forestry and natural resources is frequently complex. Having groups of professional, experienced natural resource managers from around the state is vital in making and adapting rules that will be both effective and implementable. Managing forests while protecting vital resources is the cornerstone of forestry in Oregon. These committees ensure that rules and regulations that are introduced will continue to promote this stewardship. Losing these committees would set the stage for a rulemaking process and policy development that could result in new regulation that would be overreaching, or worse, ineffective at producing the desired results.

Lastly, Oregon needs an objective, educated, dedicated professional to serve as our State Forester and Director of the Oregon Department of Forestry. Turning this position into a political puppet of the Governor would only serve to widen the divide amongst stakeholders, landowners, and Oregonians.

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