

Please Vote No on SB 335-3

The composition of the Board should not be under consideration, since this topic was one of the elements that both timber and environmental parties agreed to set aside with the Private Forest Accord in February 2020, and codified with SB 1602, June 2020.

SB 335-3;

further politicizes an already highly contentious and controversial board, tilting it more to serving political agendas, than science-based facts

aims to further reduce woodland owner representation by qualified forestry professionals, who are key to conveying the various facets involved with quality forestry management and have regular open dialogue with the regulated community.

would drastically reduce its effectiveness in representing the needs of small woodland owners

puts more power in the hands of the Governor, who has neither the time, nor the background, nor the objectivity to appreciate the many issues involved in selecting the State Forester

eliminates three regional Forest Practices Committees, which are panels of citizens that advise the Board on current forestry issues and forest management approaches. These are extremely important bottoms-up lines of communication that the Board needs to hear in its deliberations. Without this well-consideration input, political whims and agendas will unfortunately play an even greater role in Board decisions.

Having attended a dozen Board of Forestry meetings, It became apparent which members had a thorough knowledge of the many issues involved with the complexities of forest management today and constantly worked to educate others. It also became apparent which members had no concept of and no interest to comprehend these issues, but instead came with pre-loaded political agendas that they wanted to push forward, regardless of the facts or what was best for Oregon, which depends on a vibrant forest industry. In particular, rural Oregon is heavily depended on a vibrant forest industry.

Being a small woodland owner, I am not part of some large timber company or some out-of-state landowner, but never-the-less, I am directly impacted by the decisions of the Board of Forestry. It bothers me that those Board members with their own political agenda have no concern for my family and has no hesitation to impose more restrictions and barriers to the stewardship of my land. I urge you to please keep the current Board composition and vote no on SB 335-3.