

# Testimony in OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 335

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery  
March 18, 2021

Good afternoon Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard and Committee Members,

My name is Eric Farm and I live in Coos County, Oregon. I'm a consulting forester with over 17 years of forestry experience and have been appointed to the Southwest Oregon Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committee since 2013. I OPPOSE Senate Bill 335.

I have two main concerns with this bill.

1. This bill would unusually limit practicing natural resource professionals from serving on the Board of Forestry. It seems odd to me that individuals with the technical education and experience to provide context to the decisions being made, would be specifically limited to two members (and a minority) of this board. I don't know of another industry board that so limits practicing members from serving on their state board. It appears that 5 of 7 members of the Oregon Board of Accountancy are licensed CPAs. Does their license, education, and experience make them unduly influenced? I don't think so and if that board had non-CPAs making decisions about licensure and rules without understanding potential impact of their decisions, unintended consequences are sure to result.
2. The Regional Forest Practice Advisory Committees should not be disbanded. These groups provide vital feedback to the Board of Forestry on rule updates and other issues that make come up. The current membership allocation and diversity ensures that the Board receives operational feedback on proposed rule and policy changes. This ensures that changes to rules meet their intended goals while limiting negative unintended consequences. As a member of the Southwest Region Committee, it's my opinion that an ad-hoc workgroup would not have the broader context to provide efficient feedback to the Board of Forestry.

Please allow the Private Forest Accord negotiations outlined in SB 1602 to address changes to the Board of Forestry governance model.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

**Eric Farm**  
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