

SB 335-3 reduces the eligibility of citizens with practical forestry experience from serving on the seven member Oregon Board of Forestry. Current statute states no more than three members of the Board may receive any significant portion of their income from the forest products industry. SB 335 would reduce representation from the forest products industry to no more than two members. It is impossible for the Board to adequately review and vote on regulations without the benefit of on-the-ground, practical knowledge of how those regulations will impact the many foresters, loggers and landowners who work in the woods every day. This is akin to a hospital board not having the input of physicians, or a dental board not having the input of dentists. The Regional Forest Practices Committees give the agency and Board the opportunity to receive insight from on-the-ground practicing foresters, forest engineers, landowners, and watershed managers, helping inform policymakers when new rules, guidance documents, or other forest policies are being developed. SB 335-3 merely establishes an advisory committees – nothing in statute binds or directs Board policy through these committees. I oppose SB 335-3 because it places another level of bureaucracy with no accountability. Our government should not only represent one side of any issue. We need balance. Our current system allows executive oversight without completely politicizing the position and the agency as a whole.

Sincerely, Lynn Frison