

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery,

We are concerned about SB335. We are small woodland owners of 160 acres in Washington County. In managing our forest, we endeavor to support all three legs of good forestry; environmental, social and economic. Amendments to SB335 negate the economic leg as well as the needed expertise of forest land managers. Please consider:

- The Board of Forestry has balanced membership now and needs to keep the representation from forest managers at three. Forest managers care about much more than economics and have the expertise to oversee the overall health of the forest. It is essential to have this in decision making.
- Putting an income limit from forestry makes no sense. Income is not an evil thing. Economics should not rule, but is an integral part of most forest management.
- The three Regional Forest Practice Committees must remain. They are panels of citizens that are advisory only but contribute sound advice on forest management approaches.
- The Board of Forestry should stay in charge of hiring and firing the State Forester. Having the governor take on this role is an unconscionable move that would politicize the appointment.

Thank you for listening.

Bob and Bonnie Shumaker