

**Testimony submitted to:** Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery

**Testimony on:** 2021 SB 355 - Requires State Forestry Department to study and make recommendations to interim committee of Legislative Assembly regarding operation of State Board of Forestry.

**Testimony submitted by:** Nancy Harrison, Portland (nancylph@gmail.com)

I would like to urge support of SB 355, regarding reorganization of the State Board of Forestry. For many years, this board has been stacked with members from the timber industry, who clearly have a conflict of interest in regulating their own industry.

The regulation of forestry by timber interests has led to extremely weak forestry regulations that are in any case routinely not enforced, and even when logging companies are caught out breaking those weak rules, they are not penalized beyond fines so low that the companies can easily treat them as simply a small cost of doing business.

While I recognize that some representation from the regulated industry, in order to get their opinions, is necessary, I think it is important to ensure that there are voices representing other stakeholders. I think the new proposed ratio, with just 2 timber industry representatives allowed, and with a majority composed of members who do not have a direct financial stake in the outcome, is preferable. That way, the majority of the board will be making decisions based on public need rather than private business profits, and this will be much better for the forests, and for Oregonians like myself who depend on them for fresh air, carbon sequestration, and recreational use.

Thank you