



SUNRISE MOVEMENT PDX

Dear Committee Members,

I am Matt Stevenson and I live on stolen Multnomah, Kalapuya, Cowlitz, Clatskanie, Clackamas, and Molalla land, I am in high school, and I am testifying on behalf of Sunrise PDX, a youth organization focused on climate justice. I urge you to advance SB 335, which would cause a more representative, and science-based Board of Forestry. The Board of Forestry is crucial in determining forest management - it has regulatory power over all state and private forests, which is almost half of all forests in the state. However, the Board is currently prioritizing industrial forestry practices that are destroying my future, and devastating communities across Oregon.

For years the Board has been controlled by the timber industry and has allowed practices that make forestry the single largest cause of emissions in the state, cause dry and thin monoculture forests that are much more susceptible to fire and has allowed minimal stream buffers that pollute rural communities watersheds. If you choose to allow these practices to continue you will be sealing the fate of the future of my generation, and imperiling the future of your nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. Instead, by supporting SB 335 you can reverse this path, and implement a Board that is more representative of all Oregonians.

SB 335 takes crucial steps to make the Board represent all of Oregon, not just Big Timber, by reducing the members of the board that have a conflict of interest and eliminating advisory committees that have no input from any groups except Big Timber. The current conflict of interest and advisory committees are simply undemocratic, and also non-sensical – it would like allowing half of a board that regulates smoking to be controlled by the Tobacco industry. Additionally, giving the Governor the power to hire and fire the State Forester will make ODF more accountable to the people.

Thank you,
Matt Stevenson,
Sunrise PDX