

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Dallas Heard, and Committee members:

My name is Annabelle Morgan and I reside in Washington County with forestland in Lincoln County. I oppose SB 337 which requires ODF to study and make changes regarding the efficacy of current forest policies. I believe this is an unnecessary bill as ODF is already monitoring and modifying the Forest Practices Act as new information evolves for regulating and monitoring forestland regulations and another study with reporting at designated times would not be the best use of their energy and resources. I also oppose it as amendment 3 changes the composition of the Regional Forest Practices Committee to include members who have education or experience in conservation by mandating that one member be employed or serves on the board of a non-profit conservation organization and one on the board of a forest collaborative if one exist in the region. It seems to me that Board members would to be selected by who has a specific political agenda but by who has the most experience and forestry background especially in the region which they represent since best practices vary by region due to climate and soil in those regions. The existing structure works well and gives maximum representation of Department of Forestry Foresters and landowners familiar with each region, so there is no need to change it. Instead of layering one more mandate and restrictions on the representation on both state and regional boards, it seems that it is in the best interest of all Oregonians to allow the Board of Forestry to devote their time and energy into working with public and private landowners to wildfire recovery efforts and to mitigating future devastating wildfires which we saw in 2020. In addition, the MOU is already doing collaborative studies to present to the legislature, so it seems redundant to add another study to ODF's agenda.

I ask you to vote no on this SB337-3.

Sincerely,

Annabelle Morgan