

March 30, 2021

Chair Golden & Committee Members,

As family forest owners actively engaged in growing and harvesting timber in Western Oregon, we oppose SB 337 and -3 amendment.

Regional Forest Practice Committees have served a crucial advisory role in developing important regulatory changes designed to improve Oregon's Forest Practices Act from a scientific perspective. The RFP committees support resource protection and should be maintained. The shared expertise and knowledge on forest health, fuels and fire management are crucial as wildfire has become a statewide concern. This regional emphasis recognizes important geography and climate differences across the state. Dry forests in Southern Oregon are not the same and have differing attributes than our coastal forests in Lane County. A "one-size fits all" approach that does not recognize history, institutional knowledge and local expertise is not effective or enlightened forest management.

We believe the current makeup of RFPC should be maintained and oppose SB 337-3 amendment.

Sincerely,
Gordon & Gail Culbertson
Whitewater Forests LLC
39074 Easton Lane
Springfield, OR 97478