

Chair Golden, Vic-Chair Heard, and Members of Committee. I am a small woodland owner living in the rural area of east Multnomah County. I strongly support SB 335. The timber industry is currently over-represented on the Board of Forestry, and I think it is reasonable to reduce that number to 2. Oregon forests must serve multiple interests and objectives--not just timber harvesting. The varied services forests provide to Oregonians needs to be acknowledged in board composition. Those include wildlife habitat protection, drinking water and watershed protection, recreation, and climate change mitigation. Oregon needs to move significantly toward climate smart forestry, which relies on forest stewardship that increases carbon storage across the forest landscape while also recognizing the need to increase forest resilience. Research shows that the biggest bang for the buck from natural climate solutions is to keep trees in Pacific Northwest forests standing longer before logging them – 80 years or more can provide good timber production while increasing stored carbon. We also need to keep more diverse species of trees - especially mature and old growth trees - on the land. If we do this, we increase stored carbon, promote biodiversity and protect our drinking water supplies.