

Testimony to the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee  
SB 335:Reforms to the State Department of Forestry

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Heard,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, an energy policy expert and resident of Gresham. I organize with the OLCV Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT) is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Timber companies have long held too much influence over the Department of Forestry and the changes in governance proposed in SB 335 will improve the health of our state forests, protect our rural communities, and improve their ability to sequester and store carbon by:

1) Strengthening the conflict of interest language for Board of Forestry (BoF) appointments by reducing the number of members who can have conflict of interest due to ties to the timber industry from the current 3 of 7 down to 2 of 7, requiring one of the two timber members to be a small woodland owner and defining the income level that creates a conflict as \$1000.

2) Dissolving the Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committees. There are three of these standing committees and by law they must be controlled by people with strong ties to timber production. There are no such committees for conservation interests.

3) Transferring the authority to hire or discharge the State Forester from the Board of Forestry to the Governor. Currently it requires a majority of the Board to make that decision, with no formal role for the Governor. The Governor is the state's highest elected official, selected by and accountable to all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
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