

Submitter: Nicholas Hazelton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

Dear Senators,

Thanks for accepting my testimony in regards to this bill. I am a lifelong 4th generation Oregonian, born and raised in the coastal foothills west of Corvallis. My family has been involved in logging and forestry since they arrived in the 1880's. My mother worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry for 20+ years.

I deeply care about our public forests and how they are managed. I believe that the State Forester and similar positions across government agencies, should be selected and chosen primarily by the Board of Forestry. They should be selected by people who understand the expertise needed to work in that specific industry. We should not trust that a partisan office would not abuse this power in the wrong hands.

If the State Board of Forestry needs support, we should give it to them. But handing their responsibilities over to the governor's office seems like a power grab. Governor should not have final say in who is appointed as State Forester.

Furthermore, this move does not look good while we are watching federal agencies being stripped of powers. We need to maintain a balance and checks on power on all levels of government. This looks like a concentration of power.

Please do not let this bill get approved. For the sake of Oregon's future, let the experts be experts and let the partisan offices stick to what they already have.

Thank you,
Nicholas Hazelton of Philomath, Oregon