



JEROME NATURAL RESOURCE CONSULTANTS

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To: Senate Committee on Rules
Re: Senate Bill 1051

As a forest consultant, with over 40 years of forestry experience in Oregon, I am ***adamantly opposed to this legislation***. The Board of Forestry is already a politically appointed body, which in my opinion has limited its effectiveness over the years. The last thing we need is a political appointee by the Governor to lead the Department of Forestry.

I oppose confirmation of this bill for the following reasons:

- It will lead to uncertainty, less stability and consistency in forest policy and erode respect for the ODF as an agency
- It weakens public trust in the State Forester
- The Governor already appoints the Board of Forestry, which has political implications of its own. However, those individuals should be trusted to work together, representing diverse perspectives on issues, to appoint the State Forester.
- Removing this responsibility from the Board of Forestry to appoint a qualified individual undermines the Board and their position.
- Appointment of the position by governor would remove accountability and oversight of the position by the Board.
- It's ***extremely*** important that the State Forester have previous experience in forestry before being the State Forester. Land management and forestry experience is critical if the individual is going to be making decisions impacting forestland owners.
- Appointment by the governor will jeopardize credibility and respect among landowners, employees and forest industry.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene K. Jerome". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Irene K. Jerome
Forest Consultant