

Submitter: Bonnie Shumaker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

I oppose SB1051 for several reasons.

1. Having the Governor appoint the State Forester turns that into a political position. Even having the appointment needing Senate confirmation still keeps it political.
2. This would lead to less stability and consistency in forest policy and erode respect for the ODF as an agency. The Governor currently appoints the Board of Forestry whose diverse perspectives should be trusted to work together appoint the State Forester.
3. The State Forester makes decisions impacting forests and forestland owners. It is important that the State Forester have experience in land management and forestry, and this is not required under SB1051.