

Submitter:

Rick Spring

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1051

My name is Rick Spring. I am manager and owner of family timberland in Coos and Linn counties, an OSU graduate with a Master of Forestry degree, a professional forester with over 50 years in the forest industry and a lesser length of time teaching forestry. I am a 4th vice-president on the executive council of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, chairman of the OSWA Government Affairs Team and board member of the Coos-Curry OSWA chapter. I am opposed to SB 1051 for the following reasons: The understanding of forestry and forests is essential for the State Forester. A knowledge of the history of Oregon's public and private forests should be a requirement for the State Forester as well as an understanding of how different tree species grow and the requirements for tree growth. This knowledge is mandatory for the State Forester when making decisions that impact timberland owners. I cannot think of anyone in the legislature that when their home is on fire, would want a fire chief with no knowledge of fire fighting to be responsible for saving their home. Moving the State Forester position to be appointed by the Governor and not requiring any forestry experience could create the possibility of the position to be political. The Board of Forestry creates a great balance of individuals representing the economic, environmental and social aspects of Oregon forests. Keeping the Board of Forestry, which is already appointed by the Governor, in the decision making of the State Forester provides the balance needed to have the public approve of the process. Changing the law to allow the Governor to select the State Forester instead of the Board of Forestry is a bad idea.