

Submitter: Kent Tresidder
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051
SB 1051
Written Testimony
March 24, 2025

Honorable Chair, Senate Rules Committee;

The OR State Forester is a critical position for the people of our state. It is key to producing funding for local and state agencies. It is key to wildland fire protection for citizens living outside of cities. And it is key to working with private forestland owners in administering the numerous and complex forest practice rules.

Consequently, a person is needed who has broad and extensive experience with applied forestry, wildfire, and personnel and program administration. It's a very challenging job.

The bill proposes shifting the decision of selecting the State Forester by the Board of Forestry to the Governor, effectively making it a political appointee.

I would like to point out that the responsibility of the State Forester is about forestry, not about politics. The Board of Forestry, though not perfect, is a better forum for arriving at a consensus about who would best carry out the tasks of the State Forester. That's why the Board was established in the first place. Does the Senate (and House) believe they are in a more enlightened position to change this process than those who originally established the Board?

The OR Department of Forestry was once seen as a premier forestry agency in the United States. With the right person, that reputation could be restored. But it is not likely to happen without the deliberation of a body of forestry experts entrusted with making the decision.

Therefore, I oppose the advancement of SB 1051.

Respectfully,

Kent Tresidder

Kent is a member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA),