

Submitter: Ted Lorensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee. My name is Ted Lorensen and I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1051.

I worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry for more than 30 years and retired from one of the executive positions in 2015 as an “assistant” state forester (now called division chief). I served under four State Foresters, including Ed Shroeder. H. Mike Miller, James Brown and Marvin Brown.

The current framework of the Board of Forestry being responsible for the selection and hiring of the State Forester, who must be an experienced forester, has served our citizens very well. This arrangement allows the Board to interpret legislative intent as outlined in the board’s governing statutes or in officially adopted administrative rules, while having a professional with forestry expertise to provide the Board the technical and science information essential to good decision-making.

Equally important to scientific and technical knowledge, the State Forester requires a thorough understanding of the operational elements of the businesses within the Department. Broad experience in fire management, insect and disease management, forest management and the role of private lands is essential to success. Forestry decisions must consider a range of scales; including social, spatial and temporal to ensure the best possible integration of outcomes while limiting unintended consequences. Senate Bill 1051 will weaken the State Forester position by making it a political appointment, unnecessarily placing time constraints on the position, and eliminating the need to have forestry expertise. The Board of Forestry includes a diversity

interests who understand the agency and the role of the state forester and are best capable of selecting the State Forester. During my career, the Governor's office and the legislature provided appropriate input and oversight into our agency and the selection of its leadership. I ask that you reject SB 1051.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Ted Lorensen  
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