

To: Senator Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee

From: Emily Herbert

Date: March 15, 2021

Re: SB 335-3 Revising Governance of Department of Forestry

I strongly support SB 335-2 and encourage this Committee to approve this much needed bill designed to ensure a much more effective approach to the governance of the Department of Forestry.

The many values of public forests cannot be promoted when a majority of those governing have a financial stake in one use, namely timber production. Reducing the number who have conflicts of interest due to ties to the timber industry from three to two is much more balanced.

Also please do require that one of those two represent small woodland owners.

Additionally, the Board of Forestry, which is comprised of volunteers, is not in a strong position to provide performance management to the State Forester. Hiring and firing responsibility belongs to the Governor. Our states highest elected official should have that responsibility especially in light of the increased threats of catastrophic wildfires and climate change.

I also support eliminating the Regional Forest Practices Act Committees which are not representative of the many different folks who have a stake in forest practices beyond timber production and harvest.

Sincerely,