

Dear Senator Golden and members of the Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee,

I was in Central Oregon last summer and was horrified to see the devastating wildfires that made the air unbreathable. Having lived in Northern CA, I know how terrible it is to be under constant threat of fire. This change to our forests is from climate shifts that are progressing more rapidly than predicted. Our forests need to be managed as an instrument to alleviate climate change. We need much more of a focus on best practices elevating the role of forests as carbon sinks, while fostering healthier forest ecosystems that can better withstand fires.

Therefore, I strongly support SB335-2. The State Forester should be chosen by the Governor. The Regional Forest Practices Act Committees should be eliminated as they are overly focused on timber harvesting rather than forest resilience. And we should reduce financial conflict of interests when deciding public policy.

Please vigorously support this measure and send it to the Governor for implementation.

Thank you!