

Chair Golden and members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery:

As a member of the Metro Climate Action Team, I am writing in support of SB 335-2 to revise the governance of the Department of Forestry. Timber companies have long held too much influence over the Department of Forestry and these changes in governance will improve the health of our state forests, protect our rural communities, and improve their ability to sequester and store carbon.

- 1) Strengthens conflict of interest language for Board of Forestry (BoF) appointments by reducing the number of members who can have conflict of interest due to ties to the timber industry from the current 3 of 7 down to 2 of 7, requires one of the two timber members to be a small woodland owner and defines the income level that creates a conflict as \$1000.
- 2) Dissolves the Regional Forest Practices Advisory Committees. There are three of these standing committees and by law they must be controlled by people with strong ties to timber production. There are no such committees for conservation interests.
- 3) Transfers authority to hire or discharge the State Forester from the Board of Forestry to the Governor. Currently it requires a majority of the Board to make that decision, with no formal role for the Governor. The Governor is the state's highest elected official, selected by and accountable to all Oregonians.

Respectfully,
Pat DeLaquil
155 SE 16th Ct.
Gresham, OR 97080