

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

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) This bill 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.

and

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