

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

I support SB335-2 to change the governance of the Department of Forestry. We should be supporting locally owned and operated forest companies and not the large corporate international companies that only come to Oregon to cut our trees and move on. It is time for us to make the best use of our forests. This includes sustainable harvests, stewardship to regain diversity in our forests, maximizing the ability of our forests to sequester carbon.

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 to two of the seven members. A conflict of interest will include any income over \$1000. It also does away with the three 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.

We need a Board of Forestry and a State Forester who is able to absorb new science and act in the best interests of our locally owned forests, steward our precious trees, protect our water resources, and balance all of the uses of our forests.