

I strongly urge you to support SB 335. This bill is essential to stopping the destruction of one of Oregon's most vital resource - its Forests!

For years large timber companies have had very few limitations on their forest practices. These includes: Using heavy equipment (and very few employees) that compacts the soil and destroy small streams, thereby killing vegetation and habitat for living creatures, including fish; Using toxic aerial spraying to kill competing growth of small trees, or, after harvesting, to burn slash, depriving soil of nutrients; Clearcutting on a short rotation schedule - about every 25 years - that leads to more frequent land slides and toxic runoff into wells and community's water supply.

In addition, since they make the most profit for their owners or clients with these practices, they are contributing to Climate Change, since older trees are the much better at extracting carbon from the atmosphere than younger trees. Older trees also provide need shade for animals, cool the ground and slow down the drying of the soil.

I personally have testified at numerous BOF meetings over many years to point out the destructive nature of these forest practices, but to no avail. As long as the composition of the Board is dominated by commercial forestry, there is zero chance of reform!

Please support SB 335. It is crucial to the future of the State and the welfare and health of its citizens!

Thank you.