

Having served 8 years on the Oregon Board of Forestry I have enormous concern about SB 335-3. My years on the Board gave me great appreciation for the synergy and insight a broadly based board brought to the group and ultimately to our important decisions. Representation from forestry, ecology, small woodlands, academia and labor cultivated a wisdom and sense of responsibility to the three-legged stool of ecologic, social and economic needs in Oregon.

While several components of SB 335-3 are worrisome to me the two areas that stand out are:

(1) The proposed removal of opportunities to learn from those "in the trenches" who can help guide effective and efficient forest practices.

* Eliminating diverse forest management and manufacturing board members will certainly threaten a critical knowledge base and would lead even the best-intentioned board members to miss opportunities for creating successful forest practices. The ACHEIVEMENT of forestry goals should be measured rather than the restrictiveness of state and private practices. Adjacent states provide examples of sincere but misguided approaches to forest management that bring high economic costs without corresponding ecologic and social benefit.

* Regional Forest Practices Committees provide not only deep knowledge of the work they do, but with that experience an ability to point out new and practical ideas for reaching Board and State goals. It would be tragic to lose these authentic and constructive voices in the Oregon forest conversation.

(2) Discontinuing the Board's authority to hire and supervise the State Forester removes a healthy tension between the Governor and an already Governor-appointed board.

* Having been directly involved in managing two State Foresters I found that our group was able to work cooperatively to provide knowledgeable and specific guidance that would be difficult for a Governor to administer as effectively. My experience is that the current system actually fosters a non-political cohesiveness among members of the citizen board who share a goal of accomplishment. This Governor-created board is best able to encourage and support the State Forester with whom they have a day-to-day working relationship.