

I am writing to support SB335, a bill to revise the governance of the Dept. of Forestry so that our forests can better serve the health and economic needs of Oregonians. We have just witnessed devastating forest fires in part caused by climate change and current forestry practices. Our NW Forests have a key role to play in restoring a livable climate for people, wildlife, and forests. Monoculture forests developed for the timber production industry have been shown to burn faster, hotter, and longer than natural forests. SB 335 will reduce the conflict of interests on the Board of Forestry, as well as eliminate the industry biased Regional Forestry Practices Act committees, which by law must be controlled by the timber production industry. SB335 will help us achieve a more climate conscious forest management plan that balances the various uses of our forests with the critical climate situation we face.