

Submitter: Debi Lorence
On Behalf Of: North East Oregon Small Woodlands
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

Please keep the Forestry position as it is currently. Our forests need educated foresters and silviculturists. This position deserves to have an educated board governing it.

Shifting the State Forester to be Governor appointed turns it into a political position. This will lead to uncertainty, less stability and consistency in forest policy and erode respect for the ODF as an agency.

The board should be trusted to work together, representing diverse perspectives on issues, and to give direction to State Forester.

This would remove accountability and oversight of the position.

The importance of having experience in forestry is critical, for biodiversity, wildlife, wildfires, and working with the indigenous people and their land too.

Land management and forestry experience is a must before making decisions impacting forestland owners.

Should the governor hire someone this decision will jeopardize credibility and respect in the industry, which may lead to landowners making their own decisions unguided.