

Submitter: Gordon and Gail Culbertson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

Dear Senator Jama and Committee Members,

We wish to express our strong opposition to SB 1051 and urge you to reject it.

We are family forest owners residing in Lane County. We own American Tree Farm System certified forests located in Lane and Douglas Counties and are long-time members of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon Tree Farm System. We have supported and worked closely with Oregon Department of Forestry, OSU Extension and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute on projects to promote education on sustainable forestry practices.

Nearly one-half of Oregon's land is forested. We are facing considerable challenges regarding forest health and wildfire. Oregon's State Forester interacts with State and Federal agencies and is responsible and has considerable influence on public policy concerning these crucial matters.

Having been acquainted with several of Oregon's past State Foresters it was clear that each had considerable knowledge of forest resources, the practice of this science and implications of these guiding principles in stewardship of our forests.

A selection process that encourages this to become a political appointment rather than a qualification based, transparent selection process leaves the impression of a politically biased result not in the best interest of Oregonians.

There is already too much polarization of forest policy in Oregon. SB 1051 will further erode public confidence that forest management is science based, and decisions are made by experts with professional, practical experience.

Leadership and guidance of Oregon's forests is far too important to succumb to the whims of political patronage.

Sincerely,

Gordon and Gail Culbertson