

Submitter: Forrest Richen
On Behalf Of: Richen Tree Farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1051

My family has owned timber property in Columbia County for 45 years, and for the 40 years before that, my father managed timber property for Crown Zellerbach. Forestlands are a treasure that spans generations, and it is critical that management decisions for state lands or regulatory decisions affecting private lands be in the hands of a professional grounded in the art and science of forest management. You need look no farther than the requirements to get a forestry/natural resources degree and Oregon State University to understand the scope and depth of knowledge required to make wise forestry decisions. The State Forester must do many things; it is an important job. Removing the requirement this person needs practical forestry experience puts one of the state's most important resources at great risk. I urge you to defeat the bill.