HB 2357 A -7   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Revenue

Prepared By:	Jaime McGovern, Economist
Meeting Dates:	5/10, 5/11, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Reallocates privilege tax revenue to Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund, newly created Family Forestlands Subaccount, and Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount within State Forestry Department Account. Directs allowable usage of funds by State Forestry Department. Expands board of directors of Oregon Forest Resources Institute to include, as voting members, one person who represents environmental community, and one person who has experience with fishery or wildlife-related science. Prohibits use of Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) funds on certain advertising or outreach. Requires institute to maintain records of staff interactions with certain individuals, report to Governor on records and make report publicly available.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Climate mitigation and forestry practices.
- Oregon Department of Forestry pesticide use and oversight.
- OFRI advertising and advertising budget.
- OFRI education and outreach.
- De-forestation, global warming and small forestland owners.
- Unbiasedness of educational material.
- Education and certification on sustainable forest practices.
- Function of commodity commissions.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-7 Removes consideration of producers in OFRI board appointments. Specifies that voting members representing environmental community and fish &wildlife are appointed by Senate President and Speaker of the House. Clarifies that appointment member of the public must be non-affiliated. Clarifies voting status and requirements of OFRI board members.

BACKGROUND:

The Forest Products Harvest Tax (FPHT) is the cumulative amount of taxes imposed on forest products, in Oregon, assessed by volume, or thousand board feet (MBF). The dedicated amount to the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is independently set by the OFRI Board, subject to a cap. Currently, that amount that has been set by the OFRI Board is $1.12/ MBF.