

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

Please vote YES on HB 2357, the bill that would eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

Oregon's timber laws are some of the weakest in the entire country. They are not serving the interests of Oregonians. Instead, they cater to well-heeled investors in New York City. It's well past time for reform.

A recent investigative report from OPB, The Oregonian and ProPublica brought forward some damning evidence against OFRI:

- Oregon's industrial model of forestry does not provide the protections found in other West Coast states, and communities that rely on healthy forests for their clean drinking water have been paying the price. Even as Oregon has lost out on millions of dollars in federal grants explicitly because of our weak logging laws, OFRI ads have specifically touted how Oregon's laws protect water quality.
- OFRI are expressly banned from lobbying, and yet have been illegally doing so, in violation of their mandate.
- OFRI has worked to silence scientific research. After groundbreaking OSU research was published in the highly respected Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, OFRI executives lobbied legislators and university officials to convince them that the research was flawed. The study's author called it an attack on academic freedom.
- OFRI's advertising misleads Oregonians. The OFRI does not serve Oregonians but acts as an arm for the industrial logging industry. As such, they spend tax dollars aiming to convince Oregonians that our logging laws are strong even in the face of mounting evidence to the contrary.

Please protect the interests of Oregonians and vote YES on HB 2357 to disband the OFRI!

Sincerely,

Nadene LeCheminant
Salem, Oregon 97302