

I am writing today to express concern and extreme opposition to the house bill currently on the table to defund OFRI's forest education effort.

To do so now when our forests are disappearing in the face of global warming and our failure to manage our forests, could not come at a more disastrous time.

Oregon's school children have benefited from the educational tools shared generously with our schools by OFRI and given them an appreciation for Oregon's bounty and our rich heritage.

I have been a public school educator, retiring as Roseburg School Districts Superintendent some years ago since 1974. I have seen first hand the lights going on in the eyes of our school children as they learn OFRI's science based curriculum. We must preserve this valuable institution.

We should be asking the proponents of this misguided proposal, what it is that they don't want Oregonians to know about forest science.

Please dismiss this bill as malicious and detrimental to Oregon's future. Science should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Respectfully,
Lee Paterson
Roseburg