

Greetings,

I write regarding both HB 2376 and HB 2357. I will start with the latter.

I wholeheartedly support the elimination of OFRI. This must be done as a first step to addressing issues in rural Oregon. OFRI does not educate Oregonians about logging in Oregon. OFRI is the mouthpiece of corporate timber interests. This is similar to the sham perpetuated by the NRA - falsely purporting to be promoting education related to gun rights instead of just the interests of corporate gun manufacturers. It might be a different story if OFRI was to forests and logging that Ducks Unlimited is to gun education but it is not.

And, despite the lack of sufficient governmental oversight, we have the benefit of the investigation conducted by our fourth branch - the media (OPB, The Oregonian, and ProPublica). It has exposed that OFRI is illegally lobbying and let's hope that our Attorney General is willing to enforce the law as N.Y. has done regarding the NRA. But, Attorney General Rosenblum has been busy doing rural Oregon the service of standing up for our waters, communities and landowners in litigation against Jordan Cove. So, it is time for you to put an end to this misuse of tax dollars. And, this is exactly the place for you to spend your political capital Democrats; it is at the heart of our problems. And thank you courageous Democrats for putting it on the table. You must move it forward.

Next. it is time to quit thinking the O & C problem is a problem the federal government must fix. It is time for Oregon to further address the inability of our O & C counties to raise funds necessary to keep our communities vibrant and healthy. It is a state problem because of the effect of the tax revolt measures (M 5 and M 50) have had on their ability to raise funds to govern. HB 2376 will help address this problem by reinstating the severance tax and earmarking the proceeds to these counties, to protect drinking water and to prevent and prepare for wildfires. So, please move HB 2376 forward with the changes necessary to earmark the funds for these purposes.

Thank you.