

March 2, 2021

RE: HB 2357

Chair Brad Witt, Vice Chair Vikki Breese-IUVerson, Vice Chair Zach Hudson, and committee members,

OFRI is the proper (and only) resource for bridging the gap between Oregon's forest industry and public education. Defunding of OFRI would rid educators of updated and relevant curriculum and therefore, create barriers for student's to learn and understand forestry and natural resources. Less knowledge in public education means less recruiting into the industry. Less recruitment means worse and limited management in both public and private sectors. Educating the public properly is the best way to create sound support and actions towards Oregon's management of forest resources. This issue today, is more crucial than ever before.

Sincerely

Cameron Salvitelli