

As a business owner and rural Oregonian who has personally seen the consequences of bad forest management, I support the Bill because I believe we can do much better than using third parties to greenwash private and public forestry practices. For three decades OFRI has used tax dollars to promote the logging industry. Along with misleading advertising, OFRI also provides educational materials for schools and school kids that are - at best - one-sided and heavily influenced by the goals of industry. In some cases, their materials are objectively false. Though expressly prohibited from lobbying, OFRI has consistently worked to undermine scientific research, oppose reform efforts, and mislead Oregonians about the effectiveness of our forest laws in protecting critical resources like clean water and wildlife habitat. Recent investigative reporting from OPB/Oregonian/ProPublica exposed numerous recent incidents of illegal and unethical behavior by OFRI officials.

We must pass HB 2357 to stop the waste of public resources and to fund programs that bolster independent science and support responsible forest management! We need to make sure legislators hear from teachers, scientists, water managers, community leaders, and all Oregonians that have been impacted by our greenwashed logging industry!