



SUNRISE MOVEMENT PDX

Thank you, Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am Matt Stevenson and I live on stolen Multnomah, Kalapuya, Cowlitz, Clatskanie, Clackamas, and Molalla land, and I am testifying on behalf of Sunrise PDX, a youth organization focused on climate justice. I urge you to advance HB 2357, which would eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund. This bill would push Oregon away from corruption, propaganda, and instead, transition to a government that recognizes and acts on the existing science.

As a high schooler, I have seen the effects of OFRI's misleading work firsthand. Recently I was emailed by OFRI, which advertised "careers in the woods." This email warped the science and facts. It is infuriating to see industrial forestry, which is the single largest cause of carbon emissions in Oregon, which leads to an increased risk of wildfire and which pollutes rural communities watersheds, portrayed to students as 'green.' Although it may be claimed that OFRI provides honest educational materials, it must be known that these materials do not rely on existing science, instead, they attempt to spread misleading information that is beneficial for the timber industry. It is beyond immoral to present lies as truth, and give it to unaware students. Instead of having propaganda for an industry that is destroying our future, we must have honest, good education based on science.

In addition to advancing misleading and incorrect information and presenting it as correct to students, OFRI has functioned as a lobbying organization to support the interests of the timber industry. It is unethical, and corrupt for the government to fund and run a group that advances the interest of a certain trade – and that is simply not the job of the government. OFRI has also worked to silence and chill important scientific research that must inform the work of the government.

For the goal of a world based in truth, science, honesty, and correct education I, on behalf of Sunrise PDX, urge you to support HB 2357.

Thank you Committee Members