

Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Samantha Krop, and I am the Coalitions Coordinator for the Forest Waters Coalition, a grassroots network working to protect Oregon's forested waterways. I also have years of experience as a high school teacher including instructing classes on forests, ecojustice and forest policy, and additionally instructed undergraduate and masters students with the University of Oregon's education department. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2357.

OFRI's educational curriculum presents timber industry messaging points as forest facts. Their materials tout the common industry talking point that our forest policies go far enough to protect drinking water and communities, but are silent on the well-documented environmental consequences of industrial forest practices. OFRI's high school forestry curriculum and "forest facts" educational video series promote the practice of clearcutting as a beneficial form of forest management, and go so far as to claim that Oregon is already a leader in environmental forestry.

In reality, Oregon's forestry laws fall far short of our neighbors in Washington and California. In fact, OFRI's curriculum never mentions that the federal government currently withholds more than \$1 million each year from Oregon because our state's laws don't go far enough to protect coastal rivers from logging related pollution. Nor does their curriculum mention the paired watershed studies conducted out of OSU that have clearly demonstrated that industrial forest practices degrade water quality and deplete water quantity in the dry season.

Most of all, OFRI's curriculum doesn't mention the communities across Oregon whose drinking water is poisoned with pesticides and dirtied with sediment due to the impacts of clearcut logging. Because of irresponsible industrial logging—the same practices that OFRI teaches are beneficial and benign, communities like Rockaway Beach and Corbett have been forced to pay millions of dollars in water treatment facilities simply so that they can drink their water. These communities and their children deserve better than OFRI's one-sided curriculum.

Against a backdrop of climate change, longer fire seasons and a statewide executive order mandating a shift to climate-smart forest practices, we can no longer afford to direct funding into an outdated and unjust industry lobby group. More than ever, school curriculum should reflect an honest account of what's happening on the ground and provide a pathway that we can collectively embark on toward a better future. We can no longer afford to direct funding into OFRI— a mouthpiece of big timber.

Please support HB 2357 and redirect OFRI's funding to science-backed curriculum that can move our state ahead in responsible forest practices.

Thank you for your time,
Samantha Krop

