

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of HB2357. My name is Pam Birmingham and I live in the North Oregon Coast Range. I have a degree in Forestry, am a former Park Ranger and now a real estate broker. For years I have watched OFRI disseminate misleading and untrue information regarding our forest practices. Timber has been a backbone of Oregon's economy for decades but as with any business or institution it must change with the times in order to survive. In listening to yesterday's testimony I do not dispute the help OFRI has provided timber owners with management of their land. However, the time has come for OFRI to be disbanded and the funds reallocated.

If the timber industry is to continue in Oregon it must change with the times and be nimble, transparent and honest. Public trust is crucial and OFRI has undermined the credibility of the industry, the state and Oregon Department of Forestry. It is time to accept and adapt to changing times, changing public values and increased scrutiny on our forest practices. I urge you to eliminate OFRI and redirect the funds to more timely issues such as climate change and water quality with unbiased, science based information and policy. By eliminating OFRI the state and timber industry can choose to be part of the solution and regain credibility, trust and public support.