

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.
From: Laurie Dougherty, Salem OR

I urge you to support HB 2357 to eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund. OFRI is beholden to industrial timber interests, many of which are large out-of-state landowners and land speculators who are concerned only with profits. In pursuit of profits their practices generally include clearcutting and heavy pesticide use.

Forests are complex ecosystems with impacts for water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, climate change and wildfire. We need to devote resources to research and education that takes all of these concerns into consideration. We also need to devote resources to support ecologically sound forest management and Oregon forest owners who use sustainable practices.

I appreciated seeing the testimony from teachers who value educational resources from OFRI. However, Oregon students need to be educated about the full range of benefits that forests provide developed without bias toward industrial timber interests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify..