



# Oregon Small Woodlands Association

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Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and Members of the Committee;

My name is Amy Jahnke. I am a forester, I have a doctorate in forestry and forest products, a background in rural economic development and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association, or OSWA. We oppose HB 2357.

More than 70% of the funding for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) supports K-12 and general public education. OFRI connects the general (often urban dwelling) public with the realities of on-the-ground forest management practices and principles. This public education is crucial to bridging gaps in knowledge and challenging assumptions or beliefs held by the general public about the forest industry.

As a scientist myself, I recognize the value of and cherish the academic freedom that is necessary when conducting scientific pursuits that further our society's understanding of topics like climate change and carbon sequestration. I am not attempting to discredit any scientist or any scientific research that has been discussed or testified about in this legislative process. I am concerned about how science can be used in a biased way to impose beliefs that target people or industries when they don't completely align with a certain set of values. This is particularly true when biased media outlets crouch behind scientific research that aligns with their viewpoints, but neglects to present scientific research of opposing viewpoints. There are numerous climate change and carbon scientists around the world working on a breadth of research that could contribute to more well-rounded discussions on these subjects. I believe it is this lack of objectivity that OFRI attempts to address with their educational resources.

Small woodland owners benefit from a small portion of OFRI's funding that supports Neighbor-to-Neighbor tours. These tours provide landowners invaluable opportunities to develop the knowledge base that they use to manage their forest lands for a variety of values, including water quality, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and timber. It would be a terrible loss to small woodland owners if we did not conduct these kinds of educational programs. Healthy forest management on small private forest land is reliant on this education and we urge you to protect it.

Please oppose HB 2357. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy D. Jahnke, PhD