

Dear Legislators, appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the continuation of forestry education. Organizations such as Oregon Women in Timber sponsor an educational program called Conifer Connections that is invaluable for the ages 4-12 group. This is just one of the many tools for education that is supported by the OFRI. Also...

For 30 years, Oregonians have turned to the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) for facts and education about the careful management of our forests and the strict environmental protection laws that maintain wildlife habitat, clean air and water. Funded and governed exclusively by forestry professionals, OFRI provides education resources for more than 170,000 Oregon school children annually, including nearly \$100,000 in reimbursements for forestry field trip transportation costs that enable over 25,000 students to visit our forests.

OFRI also provides training and manuals for forest landowners to ensure our forests are sustainably managed.

This bill is driven by special interest groups who want to hijack Oregon's forestry education organization, swiping money away from our children's education to promote their one-sided agenda. If those groups want to create their own propaganda, they should have to pay for it themselves.

Now, more than ever, Oregonians deserve sound science and reliable facts. Please reject HB 2357.