

Dear Committee Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB2357 because I strongly believe that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute does not represent my views or the views of most other Oregonians I know. I feel that they are a very pro timber marketing oriented mouthpiece for the timber industry that uses our state's trees as a cash crop for special interests. Our forests are a complex ecosystem that sustains our wildlife and sequesters vast amounts of carbon.

OFRI spends millions annually to advertise on public media that that the industrial logging that clearcuts our forests is good management. They stifle real research and pretend to be a government agency speaking on behalf of the public. OFRI's Board is dominated by representatives of forest products dependent on the forest industry's continuing profits at the expense of the forest ecosystem. Even though prohibited, OFRI lobbies against climate change legislation and tighter logging regulation.

I want to see:

- Climate science and climate smart forestry.
- Transparency in use of public funds.
- Independent, science-backed curriculum without OFRI as middleman.
- Funding for outdoor education that doesn't have to go through OFRI
- Academic freedom for scientists, unbiased support for research
- Forest policy informed by the best forest science
- Redirection of OFRI funds to benefit the state of Oregon!

Thank you for accepting my input as an Oregonian and concerned citizen.

Keith Iding
Portland