

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in support of 2357 because Oregon students and our forests deserve unbiased representation of the important science to teach about and manage these imperative and vital resources for generations to come. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute does not do this. It is an organization with its roots and branches entwined in the forest industry. The industry is about making money. Education and stewardship are about teaching the best practices for using and protecting our forests for the long term. OSU has one of the finest Departments of Forestry in the country. Yet, in an attack on academic freedom, OFRI executives lobbied legislators and university officials to undermine groundbreaking forest-climate research conducted by a team of OSU scientists. Save our forests; teach our students from a science-based future-oriented curriculum. Move and Redirect OFRI funds to benefit the state of Oregon, both its humans and its environment. Thank you for passing HB 2357.