

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of 2357 to invest in sustainable forestry practices, reduce public funding of OFRI and restrict OFRI's use of public funds.

OFRI's history is one of misuse of public funds to benefit corporate logging interests through misinformation campaigns, biased educational programs and suppression of independent scientific research. It is unacceptable for limited public funds to be used in this way to advance private corporate interests. HB 2357 is a step towards correcting this problem by reducing OFRI's public funding and restricting how OFRI can use public funds.

Oregon's forests are vital to a healthy water supply for all Oregonians and as a key part of Oregon's climate action plan. This is a crucial time for Oregon to redirect the investment of public money for the benefit of the public and Oregon's environment. HB 2357 achieves this purpose by establishing a sustainable forestry practices fund to promote independent, unbiased scientific research into forestry practices towards a healthy forests and sustainable forestry jobs for Oregon.

Please take action to move HB 2357 forward in the 2021 legislative session.

James Scott Shurtleff
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