

To: Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee  
From: Rand Schenck  
Date: May 10, 2021  
Re: HB 2357 and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Last year OPB/The Oregonian published articles that made clear that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has “acted as a public relations agency and lobbying arm for Oregon’s timber industry.” This means that our hard-earned tax dollars are being used in ways counter to the founding purpose of OFRI; that, in fact, our public money is being used to fool the public into believing that the timber industry delivers only benefits to our state when in fact that industry is directly responsible for terrible harms. Very recently we learned of how clearcutting of the watershed that provides water to Corbett has resulted in grave threats to their future drinking water.

I urge you to support 2357 and to redirect funds to other purposes, eg., climate science and adaptive management driven by research. We can no longer allow OFRI to continue to:

- Promote business as usual, intensive forest management.
- Engage in political activity in violation of its charter, including criticizing OSU research that documented how this intensive logging has greatly reduced carbon stores.
- Spend over \$1 million annually promoting Oregon’s logging laws as strong even though they are much weaker than our neighboring states.
- Downplay serious harms caused to drinking water by numerous rural communities as a result of intensive logging practices on private lands.

Sincerely,

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