



May 12, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Chair
House Revenue Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support House Bill 2357

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Revenue committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 2357-A.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has:

- failed to follow the law by illegalling lobbying and participating in campaign activities;
- worked to suppress scientific research and reports at both Oregon State University and the University of Oregon; and
- OFRI has proliferated misleading advertising to the Oregon public for three decades.

This has all occurred with Oregon tax dollars and without legislative oversight.

House Bill 2357 stops the waste of public resources by ending the misleading ads and repurposing those funds to support sound forest management, climate smart forestry; and adaptive management driven by research. It moves important small woodlot owner education programs under the direction of small woodlot owners. And it reforms the Board of OFRI to include public members - just like Oregon's agricultural commodity commissions.

Recent investigative reporting from a joint Oregon Public Broadcasting and Oregonian investigative reporting exposed illegal and unethical behavior by OFRI officials. Opponents of House Bill 2357 have called this "fake news." In response, a more detailed article (<https://www.propublica.org/article/ofri-oregon-timber-investigation>) meticulously details, through public records, the problems at OFRI.

It is a troubling read and makes clear the need to reform OFRI with passage of House Bill 2357.

Thank you,

Bob Van Dyk
Oregon Policy Director