

I was disturbed to learn that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, an agency that we fund with our tax dollars, has been working to suppress academic research related to logging's effect on climate change and has been serving as a lobbying arm for the timber industry. I support a thorough audit of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and elimination of this agency and its fund entirely.

I am deeply concerned about the detrimental effects of logging practices (destroying habitats, polluting rivers and streams, causing erosion, leading to more intense wildfires, etc.) and how they are accelerating climate change. A priority in Oregon now should be supporting unbiased research into climate change and how it intersects with logging practices. In light of this, OFRI's tactics of trying to stifle research, influence state policy, and intimidate scientists are distressing, not to mention an egregious violation for a public agency.

The money that has been funding the OFRI could be better spent in green energy initiatives, including job training, and helping small businesses hurting because of coronavirus-related closures. I would also encourage redirection of these funds into drinking water infrastructure repairs that are necessary because of the effects of logging, and watershed protection in general, as well as wildfire prevention efforts.