



## Mentorship, Training, and Competition

---

Oregon Envirothon  
PO Box 892  
Newberg, OR 97132

February 8, 2021

Opposition to HB 2357

Dear Legislator,

Oregon Envirothon (503(c)(3) nonprofit) is strongly opposed to House Bill 2357. We urge you to oppose this bill for the following reason:

This bill results in the defunding of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and will consequently defund Oregon Envirothon.

Oregon Envirothon is an environmental sciences education program for Oregon high school students. We are a chapter of the North American Envirothon, along with each of the other 49 States. We provide students and teachers hands-on and practical resources and training to learn about natural resource conservation. Our students are best prepared for future careers in natural resources. Being an alumnus myself, I discovered my career in natural resource conservation through Oregon Envirothon.

I encourage you to explore our website and video to learn more about our program:

<https://www.oregonenvirothon.org/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drBGpOBPK-Y&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drBGpOBPK-Y&feature=emb_title)

OFRI is our strongest partner. They provide 90% of Oregon Envirothon's funding and our only staff through in-kind contribution. Their staff are also essential technical professionals who educate and train our students.

**Without OFRI, Oregon Envirothon will cease to serve its students immediately and Oregon will become the only U.S. State to shut down their Envirothon Program.**

It is impossible for me to imagine that anyone would be disappointed in the results of our cooperative efforts. I urge you to become familiar with the scope of OFRI's work and how they leverage their funding, exclusively from the Forest Products Harvest Tax, to support the public.

Feel free to call me to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Garrett L. Duyck  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Oregon Envirothon  
(503)-550-5673