

Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Breese-Inverson and Hudson, and Committee Members,

I write today in support of HB 2357 and in support of eliminating funding for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and the associated Fund. The cooperative investigation journalism by Oregon Public Broadcasting, ProPublica, and The Oregonian builds a powerful argument that OFRI is managed largely, if not solely, for the benefit of the timber industry and not the benefit of all Oregonians. There are multiple reasons that OFRI should be entirely eliminated:

- OFRI has engaged in political lobbying in direction violation of its charter, going as far as participating in private industry deliberations about dark money attacks on politicians.
- OFRI worked to undermine research from Oregon State University that showed that our timber industry is responsible for a large part of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions.
- OFRI spends \$1M a year telling Oregonians that Oregon's logging laws are strong, when in reality they are demonstrably weaker than in neighboring states.
- OFRI is doing nothing to use the best available science and logging practices to improve Oregon forests for all uses.

Oregon's budget issues in 2021 are well-known and significant. I urge the committee to cut OFRI's funding and put that money to better use. One example of a better use would be redirecting the funding to help rural communities threatened by wildfire to improve the resiliency of homes and businesses at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input.

Dr. Daniel Frye