

Dear Committee,

I am a teacher and Principal at Tucker Maxon School. We have had a deep connection to Joan Rudd with Talk About Trees for over 20 years. She has been coming to our school to present to our preschool through 5th graders. Our students learn so much from Joan's visits. They learn the parts of the tree, animals that live off what trees produce, the importance of trees to a healthy environment, and how we use trees to make paper, lumber, etc. She always has wonderful props and examples that the kids can touch and play with. The highlight is when they get to sit with her and make their own homemade paper. There are few educational experiences that come to schools at no cost and teach our students important lessons. It would be really sad if the program would have to be cut. Please keep the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and Talk About Trees. Programs like these are an integral part of educating our young children with the importance of Oregon's Forests to our wonderful state.