

Dear Representative,

I'm writing to you today to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2357, 2379 and 2598 that either de-fund the Oregon Forest Resources Institute or eliminate it all together.

I am a fourth grade teacher, and my students have greatly benefitted from OFRI over the years in that OFRI has provided field trip transportation, so that my students could participate in forestry and natural resource education programs. Without OFRI, my students would have missed out amazing learning opportunities and real-world knowledge that they would not have gotten elsewhere.

One of OFRI's three primary program areas is K-12 education, focusing on professional development for teachers, in-class educational programs for students, field-trip transportation reimbursement, and grade-level publications for teachers and students that correlate with state science, social science, math and literacy standards. All materials created by OFRI are free. You may have heard of some of the education programs made possible by OFRI funding like:

- The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program at OSU that provides free professional development for natural resources education to teachers across Oregon
- Talk About Trees, an in-class forestry education program for pre-K through eighth grades that reaches more than 100,000 students annually.
- Forests Today & Forever that offers experiential outdoor programs for youth and adults, using working tree farms and other managed forests.
- The Rediscovery Forest at the Oregon Garden that provides K-12 students an opportunity to discover the importance of Oregon's forests, see forest management and understand how forests contribute to our quality of life.

I urge you to please vote no on these detrimental bills. Oregon's schoolchildren benefit greatly from the curriculum and literacy materials that are correlated to state standards, outdoor experiences and funding provided by OFRI's K-12 education program.

Thank you,

Jessica Hall, Grade 4