

My name is Michael Jamieson; I'm a resident and family forest owner living in rural Washington County, in the House District of Chair Witt. I am retired from 29 years with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue as a firefighter, Lieutenant and Captain involved in fire suppression. I have been actively involved with forestry for over 50 years, accumulating over 2800 acres of forestland since 1970. I am married and am the father of 3 children ages 26, 10 and 7. I am also a registered Democrat since 1969, although the Party has in recent years drifted away from my view of responsible, transparent and broadly representative governance.

I bought my first 70 acres of timberland, via a long term land sale contract in 1970. My family doesn't have a history of forest ownership. My father was a rural mail carrier, and I located my first the property because it was on his mail route. Since then I bought more land, most of which had been recently logged by someone else. I rehabilitated and reforested each parcel, then moved on to the next one. I repeated this process over 60 times, such that we now own over 2800 acres of forest land, on which I have planted over 500,000 trees, including over 120,000 with my own two hands. In other words, I have literally spent my life improving the forested lands of Oregon. I appreciate OFRI being such a positive advocate and educator for what I and others do.

Since OFRI's creation, I have learned much reading their literature, which gave me great insight into the variety of things that make up a healthy forest. There seems to be an often repeated perception created by the media, that ordinary taxpayers of Oregon are funding OFRI. This is wrong. OFRI is funded only by those involved in forestry, through a tax on harvested timber, similar to many other commodity commissions who provide information about the commodities they produce.. I believe a great service is provided to the public by OFRI, and I am happy to help in its continued funding. . Please oppose this bill and support the balanced education provided by OFRI.