

Re: HB2357

Members of the Ag and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Rod Bardell. I live between Lebanon and Sweet Home on a tree farm which my wife and I manage.

In addition to forest management activities, we also have hosted about 30 scout groups (boys and girls) who visit our tree farm. They come to learn about different tree species and collect tree specimens. They also learn that forest management on a small woodland does not interfere with forest recreation and education.

I have used the resources provided by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute as part of the instruction. Because OFRI is solely funded by the Forest Products Harvest Tax which forest landowners pay, you might assume that the educational resources are one sided, promoting only timber growing and harvesting. However, this is not the case.

As an example, one of publications I use which is provided by OFRI is titled "Into the Forest." In this booklet is information on not only what the forest provides, but also how forests are protected and how our Oregon's forests are a variety of ecosystems. Not being a teacher, this workbook provides educational activities which I would not develop on my own. The booklet also gives resources and instruction that I alone would not provide the scouts.

OFRI provides students, teachers and outdoor schools a large amount of these resources which give an appreciation for our state's forests and the benefits they provide.

Because of the help OFRI has provided me and those who I teach, I ask you please vote no on HB2357.