

Members of the Committee:

I am appalled that earlier testimonies have been removed from the record. That is highly suspect and the fact that those whose testimony was removed were not notified is unbelievable. It borders on obstructing our freedom of speech. Since the majority of the state is forestland, it is very important that its citizens have the opportunity to be educated about the forest. OFRI's very mission statement points out its dedication to advancing public knowledge of the forest, forest managements, the need for forest products and encouraging sustainable forestry through landowner and public education. This is all done using collaboration amount forest scientists, communities, public agencies and, forest owners and conservationists.

OFRI is important to our state and to our forests.

OFRI accomplishes this through funding of classroom presentations, forestry tours, free informational publications and scientific research on forest topics, workshops , displays and tours at the Forestry Center. They do very high quality of presenting forestry education.

I urge you to continue to fund OFRI. It's does extremely important work in the state.

Vote NO on HB 2357 and do not allow the bill to move forward.

Thank you

Kay King

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