

Chair Witt and Committee Members

I am writing in support of HB 2357 to defund the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). OFRI has presented curriculum to public school students that underplays the impacts of destructive types of forest management practices such as clear-cut logging. As a grandmother of two young girls, I try to instill in them a love and understanding of our wonderful Oregon forests. We go on many forest walks and hikes. They are both in public schools and I want to see an independent science backed curriculum presented to them.

OFRI is dominated and funded by the timber industry, and despite being prohibited from lobbying because they are a publicly funded organization, they have lobbied against climate legislation and strong logging regulations meant to protect clean water and communities. We need forest policy informed by the best forest-carbon and climate science.

OFRI spends millions of dollars of taxpayer money to present biased information at the expense of our forests, watersheds and communities. Oregonians deserve better. I ask that you support HB 2357, to defund OFRI and redirect forest tax money to benefit the state of Oregon!

Thank you for your support.

Catherine Spofford