

Chair Witt, Committee Members,

I'm writing to request your support for HB 2357, in eliminating the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund. On August 4, 2020, The Oregonian-OPB-ProPublica published a report exposing OFRI for suppressing science on forest-carbon, downplaying the impacts of industrial forestry on Oregon's drinking water supplies, and engaging in illegal lobbying efforts to further the timber industry agenda. Many of OFRI's materials, which are distributed through television advertisements and educational curriculum, contain misinformation and skew the facts to support the timber industry.

It is insulting to me as an Oregon citizen, in a time of climate crisis, that my tax dollars are supporting the destructive forest practice of clearcutting not to mention mass media advertising and misleading educational materials supplied to our schools.

OFRI's curriculum underplays the impacts of destructive types of forest management such as clearcut logging and presents Oregon's timber industry as leaders in environmental management. I call this greenwashing.

Sadly, Oregon's industrial logging practices fall far short of our neighbors to the north and south in protecting our forest resources and communities from the impacts of clearcut logging. Oregonians have struggled for decades to reform forest practices, but OFRI has used public funds to mislead Oregonians and lobby against stronger logging regulations.

Industrial logging practices have degraded drinking water supplies caused by logging and associated chemical spray and road building in Arch Cape, Corbett, Wheeler, Rockaway Beach, and hundreds of other Oregon communities. For the sake of impacted communities, Oregon's forestry curriculum should present an honest and science-backed view of the significant impacts of industrial forest management.

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

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Eileen Fromer
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