

Dear House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources,

I'm writing to you today to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2357, 2379 and 2598 that either de-fund the Oregon Forest Resources Institute or eliminate it all together.

I am a teacher and have personally benefitted from OFRI by having speakers in my classroom, having transportation provided for field trips to the Oregon Garden and Port Blakely, and by attending professional development that has made me a better science teacher.

One of OFRI's three primary program areas is K-12 education, focusing on professional development for teachers, in-class educational programs for students, field-trip transportation reimbursement, and grade-level publications for teachers and students that correlate with state science, social science, math and literacy standards. All materials created by OFRI are free. You may have heard of some of the education programs made possible by OFRI funding like: The Rediscovery Forest at the Oregon Garden that provides K-12 students an opportunity to discover the importance of Oregon's forests, see forest management and understand how forests contribute to our quality of life.

I urge you to please vote no on these detrimental bills. Oregon's schoolchildren benefit greatly from the curriculum and literacy materials that are correlated to state standards, outdoor experiences and funding provided by OFRI's K-12 education program.

Thank you,

Noah Hall, 4th/5th Grade Teacher