



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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March 1, 2021

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD)

Re: **Oppose HB 2357 – Elimination of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute**

Chair Witt and Committee Members,

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District opposes HB 2357 which would eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). JSWCD serves Jackson County by protecting our natural resources through education and technical assistance to implement voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

We request that OFRI remain as a valuable organization to continue its work developing resources and serving as a central clearing house for information about Oregon's forests. OFRI provides tools for landowner education, kindergarten through 12th grade education and general public education. One program that we strongly support is Oregon Envirothon which helps to develop youth with skills and knowledge to become natural resource leaders of the future. We do not want to see this program eliminated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Stan Dean, Chair of the Board
Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District
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