

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.

Living in the Nehalem & Wheeler areas for over 20 years, I've seen and personally experienced the effects of clear-cut forestry practices that directly impact water quality for local residents' domestic water sources, as well as habitat loss on the land and in our streams, rivers and bays. OFRI turns a blind eye to such destructive forest practices and facilitates Industrial Forestry's rampant destruction of our coastal forests and watersheds through a designed, thoughtful & effective program of feeding mis-information to the public. That same public has lost all trust and faith in the mission of OFRI. It is now a mouthpiece for the Forest Industry and nothing more or better. It's time for Oregon to defund OFRI. Let the timber interests PAY for their dis-information campaign out of their own profits! It should NOT be coming out of Oregon tax revenue.

I ask that you support HB 2357, so harvest taxes don't continue to fund OFRI's propaganda.

Thank you for considering my testimony.