

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Jeanne Roy, 6805 SW 12th Ave., Portland, OR 97219
Subject: HB 2357, Elimination of OFRI

As an environmental educator, I have been appalled that OFRI has been allowed to exist as a public relations arm of the timber industry while appearing to be a state entity providing objective information about responsible forest management. Even though it was created by the Legislature, it is tightly controlled by the industry, and it does not provide objective information.

Here are some examples.

Over the years OFRI has consistently told the public that Oregon has the most advanced forest practice laws in the nation whereas, in reality, we lag behind California and Washington when it comes to safeguarding the land, water, and humans from the negative impacts of industrial forest practices.

More recently when researchers led by Oregon State University forest ecologist Beverly Law found that the state could dramatically shrink its carbon footprint if trees on private land were cut less frequently, OFRI quickly assembled scientists and lobbyists to challenge the study and its authors. Its executive director emailed the dean of the OSU College of Forestry, dean of the Oregon State College of Forestry, suggesting Law's study was built on faulty assumptions.

When professors at the University of Oregon produced a video critical of logging during a research project, OFRI tried to kill the work. Its executive director and a contingent of industry lawyers and lobbyists alerted timber executives on the university's board of trustees about the research, then met with school officials, and threatened to pull timber donor funding if the university didn't "extricate" itself from the project.

When timber executives were worried about the threat that new drinking water protections would pose to their ability to log, OFRI created a commercial with the message that Oregon's forests produce clean water. It ignored the fact that the federal government has determined that Oregon laws don't do enough to protect coastal rivers from logging pollution. Advertising campaigns are now OFRI's single largest expenditure, \$1 million annually.

It's time to eliminate OFRI. I urge you to pass HB 2357.