

February 3, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Opposition** to HB 3019

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee.

We request that this letter be entered into the public record on this matter. We are opposed to HB 3019. As we understand it, this bill will eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

First, a little background about us. My wife and I are retired, and we own and manage about 83 acres of forestland in western Oregon near Estacada, which we have been doing for over 30 years. We are proud of our forest stewardship, and we were honored for our work in 2021 as Oregon's Tree Farmer of the Year. We received this honor not on account of how efficiently we can produce a forest crop, or how well we can log a forest stand; we were awarded this honor on account of our forest sustainability practices, fish habitat restoration efforts, and educational services we present on our property to students of all ages about healthy streams and forests. We actively manage our forest for many requirements and uses, ranging from infrequent timber harvesting to wildlife habitat enhancements, recreation and riparian restoration.

We are constantly seeking new information to follow best management practices regarding the stewardship of our forestland. For this information we rely upon organizations such as the OSU Extension Service, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and OFRI, in addition to academic research papers. No one organization is the sole purveyor of the knowledge necessary for us to be effective forestland managers.

We view OFRI as a valuable informational resource. Much of their information is free to the public. OFRI produces many professional, well-written and informative documents, of which we have studied many. Just to name a few of these OFRI documents that have helped us along the way:

1. Unquestionably their most informative document is "Oregon's Forest Protection Laws, an Illustrated Manual." This document, which is updated frequently, takes the pages of jargon found in the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) and makes it directly applicable to the small forestland owner, with countless examples and illustrations. It is an invaluable reference from which to learn how to be good land stewards and follow the intent of the OFPA.
2. "Establishing & Managing Forest Trees in the Willamette Valley" is another excellent reference for those of us who live in this area and want to tie topics ranging from soil and climate to our trees.
3. OFRI produces relevant and well-researched documents pertaining to fish and wildlife, including, but not limited to "Fish Habitat and Passage" and "Oregon Forests as Habitat." Documents such as these clearly advocate for protection of fish and wildlife, and the practices a forestland owner can undertake to achieve these goals.
4. "Carbon in Oregon's Managed Forests" is another example of a science-based piece, made intelligible to the forestland owner by providing valuable information on how we may help participate in and enhance the carbon storage and sequestration (CSS) goals that will be needed in the upcoming years. We have been advocating for a robust CSS program for several years, and

were proponents of the 2019, HB 2020 (the Clean Energy Jobs bill), which unfortunately failed in the state senate.


Additionally, OFRI puts on a number of important forestland trainings every year. Perhaps one of their greatest successes, in concert with the OSU Extension Service, was the production of biweekly, free webinars to the general public about a multitude of objective topics concerning Oregon's forests.

OFRI is funded strictly from Oregon's Forest Products Harvest Tax, which is paid for by those of us who grow and then harvest their trees. No monies from Oregon's General Fund are used.

There are more pressing challenges we face regarding Oregon's forestlands and how they are managed and this quest by a few to eliminate OFRI should be abandoned.

In summary, we find that HB 3019 should be withdrawn from further consideration, as such drastic action is not needed.

Thank you.
Sincerely,



David & Mary Ann Bugni
30265 SE Kowall Rd.
Estacada, OR 97023