

21360 E. Briarwood Rd.
Rhododendron, OR 97049

February 5, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chairman,
And HALNRW members Reps. Hartman, Owens, Gamba, Levy, Marsh, McLain, and Scharf
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chairman Helm and HALNRW Committee Members

I'm writing to express my personal and professional opposition to HB 2298, HB 3019, and HB 3025, which would needlessly gut funding for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). I am a forester who has been a part-time forestry and wildlife management instructor at Mt. Hood Community College since 1996. I have used OFRI's superb publication, *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual* as a textbook in Timber Harvesting classes and as a reference in other classes, such as Current Issues on Forest Resources. OFRI provides these publications to me and my students at no cost. OFRI also provides numerous other educational publications, resources, and staff services—for free—to other colleges and universities, as well as K-12 schools around the state.

In my view, OFRI is a model organization that other states would do well to emulate. Please do not reduce or eliminate its funding. To do so would be a great loss for Oregon, its people, and its forests.

I'd be happy to discuss this with any of you at any time. My contact information is shown below.

Please note that the opinions I express here are mine alone, and not necessarily those of Mt. Hood Community College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Wilent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Wilent
Home office: 503-622-3033
SWilent@gmail.com