Submitter: Dr. Beverly Law
On Behalf of:
Committee: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure: HB3019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB3019. My name is Dr. Beverly Law, and I am Professor Emeritus of Global Change Biology & Terrestrial Systems Science at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University. I have over 230 refereed publications on carbon cycle science in forests, focusing on the effects of climate, wildfire and management on forest carbon, and I am a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. I was recently awarded "best female scientist" for my research publications, among the top 1,000 female scientists in the world, and have been in the top 1% across fields in previous years.

I support this bill. It would better support science-based actions regarding forests for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. We have just a short window to change our land use and management practices to address climate change. Supporting dis- and misinformation interferes with our ability to have educated decision makers and an informed public to help us deal with the *serious issues of climate change and biodiversity losses. Loss of critical habitat in forests is a major cause of species population declines.*

The OFRI does not use sound science for their actions. I provided detailed testimony on March 2, 2021 before the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. As has been reported by OPB and the Oregonian, OFRI's staff actively aimed to discredit our research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences *Land-use strategies to mitigate climate change in carbon dense temperate forests*. They aimed to "develop a swift response so the study doesn't drive the narrative…so that it doesn't drive and develop carbon policy" and to "develop a media strategy to undermine Dr. Law's study." OFRI even sent out talking points.

Based on my own experience, I support the idea of reforming OFRI by prohibiting them from misrepresenting the science in their outreach activities and "generalized advertising for public education." To meet current and future challenges from climate change, we need major changes in how we manage our forests. We need science-based decision-making to meet climate goals. The reforms in the bill are important to keeping OFRI from participating in discrediting and misrepresenting science.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Beverly Law