

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

I am a CTE Forestry Teacher, President of NE Oregon Small Woodlands Association (NEOSWA), Founder and lead for Pine Valley's Firewise Community, and a Volunteer Rural Firefighter in Pine Valley, Oregon. Also, a small woodland owner in Pine Valley (Halfway) Oregon.

OFRI has played a vital role in fostering public awareness through scientific research, public workshops on forest management, K-12 forest education programs, forestry field trips, lesson plans and promotion of best practices on Oregon's forests. As a teacher, land owner, and leader of "forest education" I rely on their accurate most up to date information available for education outreach to the public. For over 100-person membership in Pine Valley's Firewise Community, for over 265 youth K-12 students at Pine Eagle School District, and for over 100-person membership to NEOSWA who serves Union, Grant, Baker and Wallow Counties with educational workshops given directly on landowner's property. OFRI's education is attainable, easy for all teachers to use and add into their lesson plans. OFRI's guided youth curriculum serves as a main information stream to CTE teachers who are exposing career pathways to our high schools, and through workshops and their website give landowners hands on directives for mitigating wildfire and wildfire prevention methods, which we access as a firewise community.

Please do not remove the funding at any level, to our leading source of forestry education in Oregon, they are masters at what they do, and we educators rely on their knowledge and resources for now, and all the generations to come in Oregon. Please vote against HB 3019 or any bill to eliminate or change OFRI.

Sincerely,

Debi Lorence
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Pine Valley Firewise Lead, Forestry CTE teacher, President NE Oregon Small Woodlands
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