

Submitter: Nancy Grayson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3019

Opposition to HB 3019

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee.

My name is Nancy Grayson and I am a small woodland owner in Coos County I sustainably manage about 13 acres for timber and small forest products production. Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to HB 3019 which would practically end the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) by taking two-thirds of the funding and changing how it operates. OFRI is there to provide answers and resources to small woodlot owners . I have not had the same experience with the Oregon department of forestry. It appears to me that the state is attempting to grab land from citizens by this bill! OFRI enables landowners to be knowledgeable stewards of their land . Please shut this theft bill down.

I understand the role my tree farm plays in contributing to Oregon's clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat. OFRI is a great asset to small woodland owners like me while also assisting to educate the public regarding forestry and advocating for the biodiversity of healthy forests. We appreciate that the Oregon Legislature created OFRI in 1991. Forest management is extremely complex. Not only are we continually learning about the interconnection between all the ecological components that make up a health, sustainable forest, but we need to continually work to better balance the economic and social factors with these ecological components. OFRI, with its public and landowner educational programs, workshops, is an important asset for landowners to educate themselves in these complex items.

Landowners and conservationists came together in 2020 to pass the Private Forest Accord. There is a great amount of information that needs to be disseminated to both landowners and the public regarding the PFA. Without OFRI, who will make that happen?

To defund OFRI would deprive Oregon school children and teachers of a valuable educational resource. We must always support the education of future generations. They are our future.” OFRI has done just that. I am thankful they have helped us educate future generations and they need to continue to do so.

Please vote against HB 3019 or any bill to eliminate or change OFRI.

Sincerely,

Nancy Grayson