

Quincy Powers, Chair, OFRI Board of Directors

Good Morning, Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee. My name is Quincy Powers and I am the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, which is known by the acronym OFRI. My family is the owner of the Powers Ranch which is located in Coos and Curry Counties. In addition to raising cattle, our ranch also includes highly productive forestland. I am serving my second term on the OFRI Board. The OFRI board is comprised of 10 voting members that represent forestland owners in Oregon. The board also has one liaison from the Oregon Department of Forestry, one public representative position and the Dean of the Oregon State University, College of Forestry who serve on the board in an advisory role.

OFRI was established in 1991 by the Oregon Legislature. OFRI's mission is to educate Oregonians about our state's forests and their sustainable management. Oregon leads the nation in the production of softwood lumber and plywood and the forest sector represents approximately 4 percent of the state's GDP.

OFRI is modeled to operate as a commodity commission, similar to the 23 other commodity commissions in Oregon (wheat, blueberry etc.). OFRI's programs span three main categories: Public Education, K-12 Education and Landowner Education. Each of these programs addresses a unique audience within the state. OFRI's work is funded by a portion of the Forest Products Harvest Tax, which forest landowners pay upon harvesting timber. The Forest Products Harvest Tax applies to timber harvested from any land in Oregon, except most tribal lands. The tax rate is established by the OFRI Board annually, the current rate is \$1.09 per thousand board feet. The portion of the Forest Products Harvest Tax that funds OFRI is a privilege tax, similar to the privilege taxes that support the other commodity commissions in the state.

Amendment four, which is proposed to House Bill 2495 seeks to divert 60 percent of OFRI's annual budget to the creation of a Wildfire Suppression Fund. Obviously, a diversion of more than half of OFRI's annual budget would seriously compromise

its ability to achieve its mission rooted in statute for nearly three decades.