

March 2, 2021

RE: HB 2357

Chair Brad Witt, Vice Chari Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Zach Hudson, and committee members,

I am writing in regards to the proposed elimination of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the corresponding fund. I am a teacher who relies heavily on the resources and curriculum available through OFRI. I recently added the Natural Resources/Environmental Sciences/Forestry CTE endorsements to my existing English and History endorsements. Part of my teaching assignment now involves offering CTE credit to my students in conjunction with my Team Teacher. Our students are able to stay in our program for grades 9-12 and earn English, History, and Environmental Science CTE credit each year.

Teaching our content has been easier directly because of the resources and funding provided to OFRI. We have downloaded curriculum yearly and we have borrowed notes from OFRI to supplement our daily teachings. We have also traveled to OFRI to participate in Professional Development every year. These PD opportunities included guest speakers relevant to our curriculum and training and information regarding the state Envirothon competition which OFRI funds and runs annually. We have been blessed to be able to take teams to Envirothon to compete in this Environmental Science competition. Our students are currently preparing for this year's competition and have begun the process of creating the video required for the competition. OFRI has also been an important part of outdoor education and field trip funding. Without this funding and curriculum, the options available in science and CTE education will look very different.

I sincerely hope that the state legislature will understand the integral part that OFRI plays in science and CTE education in the state. Please reconsider eliminating this funding source. There are many educators in the state who rely on OFRI every day.

Sincerely

Anna Warntjes
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CTE Natural Resources/Humanities
FNRL Advisor