



Clatsop County
Courtney Bangs
District 4 Commissioner

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition of HB2357. As a retired agriculture and FFA advisor for grades 7-12, OFRI provides an amazing amount of free materials to our students across the state. Over 170,000 students across the state have participated in OFRI sponsored events while over 100,000 students throughout Oregon have been served by in-class programs funded by OFRI in the last 2 years. OFRI has been integral for funding in our tiny Title 1 school district in order to help our children broaden their scope of education through the Rediscovery Forest at the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program providing reimbursements and enabling field trips for all forestry related studies.

Landowner Education is another integral offering that OFRI provides to our constituents. 78 training sessions attended by over 6,000 landowners in 2019/2020 and 20 Tree School Online webinars for forest landowners in 2019/2020. OFRI produces written materials and the Oregon's Forest Protection Laws Manual – a 300+ illustrated reference for forest landowners, managers and operators to understand and follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act. In conjunction with the adult education, OFRI provides public education via County Economic Fact Sheets - how the forest products industry impacts Oregon's 36 counties, the Bi-annual Oregon Forest Facts booklet about Oregon's forests and forest industry, and an in-depth special reports on topics like water quality, carbon storage, harvest methods, and wildfire.

Overall, OFRI is integral to our community's forest education here in Clatsop County. I would be saddened to see these resources to our teachers and students removed.

Sincerely,

Courtney Bangs
Clatsop County Commissioner Dist #4
FTLAC Board Member