

March 2, 2021

Chair Witt and Members of the Ag & Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to register my **opposition to HB 2357**. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) delivers quality education programs and products to Oregonians supporting K – 12 classroom and field-forest education events, providing in person, written, and online education to both forest landowners and to the general public.

There are 22 other commodity commissions for agricultural crops such as wheat, beef, blueberries, and hazelnuts. Unlike other commodity commissions, OFRI cannot lobby or directly levy assessments to industry. OFRI is funded exclusively through the Forest Products Harvest Tax. I am glad to **support OFRI with funds** derived from timber harvested **from my tree farm**.

As a forest landowner in Rainier, OR, I value the resources provided to me by OFRI! Every year the social pressures against sustainable forest land management increase due to misconceptions and fear. The education provided by OFRI is integral for all the citizens living in Oregon to understand the importance of the forest products industry in the Pacific Northwest.

School children need contact with the forests and understanding of their place in the “nature.” Adults need to trust the abilities of professional and family foresters to maintain sustainable timber production where good regulation exists. OFRI works for Oregon.

**Keep OFRI viable! Oppose HB 2357!**

Thank you,

Jenny Knoth, Ph.D. (Forestry and Sustainability)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Tree Farmer

Further – I **oppose HB 2379 and HB 2598**