

Thank you Representative Witt for the opportunity to speak before the committee in support of HB2357. My name is Felice Kelly, and I am a scientist and a climate activist. I urge you to defund OFRI because this institute has stood in opposition to science and in opposition to fighting climate change. Continuing to use tax dollars to fund these efforts, that undermine the well-being of Oregonians, is antithetical to government service of the public good.

For a crystal clear example of how OFRI acts as a PR firm for the timber industry I would refer you to the executive summary of their "Trees to Tap" report. A normal government report on issues of water contamination would include quantification of the pollutants, including acceptable limits and the limits observed in community water supplies. Instead, on the issue of sedimentation, the report never quantifies the sedimentation issue, or even admits that there is an issue, though it lists some vague recommendations for improvements. But the OPB/Propublica reporting on water quality listed many community water managers that had to completely revamp their drinking water systems to deal with increased sediment, and a 2010 DEQ report on turbidity highlighted Coast Range water districts that are predominantly surrounded by industrial forests that frequently have Nephelometric Turbidity Unit measurements above the levels that are acceptable for their water quality systems. These data should be in any report on the issue. Instead OFRI put forward a glossy and misleading report that implied that there were no problems.

The suppression of Dr. Law's science is beyond the pale. The fact that a tax-funded entity sought to undermine the peer-reviewed and prestigiously published science of an Oregon researcher because they disagreed with results and conclusions undermines the application of forest carbon science to global warming, and reveals an organization that does not deserve public funding. Misinformation and greenwashing degrade our public discourse, and leave Oregon less prepared to deal with the challenges that face us all.

Please do not continue funding this organization that lobbies against science. It is not a commodity commission, it is a tax-funded PR firm and lobbying organization. Its educational role would be better filled by the OSU Extension Service.

Thank you,  
Felice Kelly  
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