

I am FOR HB 2357.

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has used tax dollars to promote corporate and Wall Street owned logging industry. Its charter is to educate Oregonians about the state's logging laws and is prohibited from lobbying. Yet, OFRI has consistently worked to undermine scientific research, oppose reform efforts, and mislead Oregonians about the effectiveness of our forest laws in protecting critical resources like clean water and wildlife habitat.

A recent investigative report from OPB, The Oregonian, and ProPublica exposed the facts that:

OFRI has been lobbying illegally - they helped to coordinate an industry lobby day in 2019 and worked against Governor Kate Browns campaign.

OFRI has worked to silence scientific research - after groundbreaking forest climate research conducted by faculty at Oregon State University's College of Forestry was published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, OFRI executives lobbied legislators and university officials to convince them that the research was flawed. The study's author called it an attack on academic freedom.

OFRI's advertising misleads Oregonians - OFRI misleads Oregonians to believe that our logging laws are strong despite research evidence against it. Oregon's logging laws are the weakest on the West Coast. Many communities drinking water has been damaged or markedly by industrial logging with inadequate protections. Oregon has lost out on millions of dollars in federal grants because of our weak logging laws that allows harm to fish habitat.

OFRI provides education to school children. This can and should be provided from neutral parties such as the extension service or through state curriculum.

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