

I am a professional forester who works with small forest landowners in Oregon and I oppose HB 2357. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) educational programs and publications are important sources of information for me professionally and the landowners I serve. I have been both a participant in and contributor to OFRI's excellent science-based field programs, which reach both children and adults across geographic and income spectrums, inspiring appreciation for forests and developing natural resource stewards.

Many programs I participate in for formal or informal continuing education are created by or facilitated in some way by OFRI, through presentations, publications, funding, organizing, and webinar hosting. OFRI's staff are highly respected leaders in the forestry community.

Elimination of OFRI would cause great harm to the delivery of public forest management education and professional development for foresters in Oregon. It would leave the public less informed about the status of and work in Oregon's forests, and a gaping hole in landowner, professional forester, student, and teacher education about forests we all treasure.