

I oppose HB 2357.

OFRI serves an important need. In 1991, the legislature recognized the need to educate Oregonians about forestry. Urbanites and newcomers to our state needed to know how sustainably we manage timber in Oregon, and this need is even greater today. Nowadays people mostly go into the woods to hike. And while that's a good thing, they miss learning about the every day workings that go on in the woods. OFRI explains that to them.

OFRI is very effective at telling my story and it is no more propaganda than the blueberry commission pointing out that blueberries are good for you and you should eat more of them. My harvest tax dollars go to support OFRI. No general funds are involved.

Asking ODF to do the 4 tasks named in the bill is unnecessary. I am capable of maintaining my forest in a healthy condition. Regulation and monitoring pesticides is already being done by ODF. And how can you advance climate policy and carbon sequestration any better than growing timber?

OFRI provides a needed counterpoint to the biased anti-forestry articles in the Oregonian. I have no faith in any article published by the Oregonian or Propublica. Last year Propublica asked me to participate in an on-line questionnaire. I was hesitant due to the fact that they came with an agenda and slanted questions to lead to their own conclusions, no matter what you said...but went ahead anyway. Sure enough, the upshot always is their bias.

Once again liberals see a pot of other people's money that they can grab and use for their own purposes. Please don't support this attempt at theft and cancel culture.