

March 3, 2021
Re: Support for HB 2357

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I am a concerned Oregonian who has been reading the OPB and Oregonian reporting about Oregon's timber industry over the past year, with growing alarm. I write to urge support for HB 2357 to eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. As OPB describes it in the article I also submitted, OFRI has become a "de facto lobbying arm of the timber industry" (Rob Davis, August 4, 2020). This is not a year when the timber industry needs taxpayers to fund lobbying for them.

As OPB has also documented, the past year has seen record profits for large timber companies, whose business is booming because of construction during pandemic quarantines. At a time when local budgets are tight, OFRI is not stewarding our forests or our tax dollars as well as they should.

I encourage you to vote for HB 2357. Thank you for your public service on behalf of Oregonians now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Audrey Zunkel deCoursey