



Oregon Association of Consulting Foresters

TESTIMONY ON HB 2357

The Oregon Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) is comprised of professional foresters who provide forest management services to the more than 140,000 private forest landowners in Oregon. ACF members help landowners protect and enhance property values, produce a more sustainable timber harvest, enhance wildlife habitat, and establish and protect a family's forest legacy. ACF members put the needs and goals of the landowners they work for first.

Our members, and many of the forest landowners they represent, are concerned about provisions of these three proposals that would either defund the Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI) or eliminate it altogether. ***We strongly oppose HB 2357.***

Oregon ACF members consider educating the citizens of Oregon about forestry as one of our most important professional responsibilities. We have seen first-hand the many benefits that OFRI provides the citizens of Oregon in helping to educate students, educators, and the general public in sound forest management and the many benefits that Oregon's forests provide the State. Without doubt, OFRI operates one of the finest general public forestry education programs in America.

- OFRI is telling the good-news story of our valued forest resources and the scientific management of these resources.
- It reaches Oregonians young and old, rural and urban, rich and poor through its excellent programs.
- These range from television advertisements and natural resources management publications to teacher training and student in-class programs and field tours.
- Literally hundreds of thousands of K-12 students, and thousands of landowners throughout Oregon benefit from OFRI programs.
- Ninety percent of OFRI's budget goes to K-12 education, landowner education and general public education, with only 10% going to administration.

And Oregon's forest products industry is picking up the full bill through the Forest Products Harvest Tax! This is a tremendous win-win for Oregonians. In summary, the Oregon Association of Consulting Foresters believe that an educated citizenry is important to the sustainable management of forest resources. Oregon Forest Resources Institute is a key player for achieving that mission here in Oregon.

We respectfully request that HB 2357 be withdrawn from further consideration.

Sincerely,
Roger G. Lord
Oregon Chapter Chair