

HB 2357: eliminates the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), and its funding by re-directing the portion of the Forest Products Harvest Tax that funds OFRI to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

OFRI is funded exclusively through the Forest Products Harvest Tax, a volumetric tax on harvested timber paid only by timber growers and receives NO General Fund dollars.

As a private timber owner OFRI has been invaluable in being a resource to educate and support our efforts to be good stewards of land we own that is zoned in a Timber district. With this support we have been able to turn a unproductive section of land into a thriving forest which benefits us all.

I urge you to oppose HB2357 and keep OFRI a vibrant part of this state.