

No on House Bill 2357

Committee Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham & Werner Reschke, Members; Levy, Marsh, Smith & Valderrama of the House Revenue Committee

My name is Milton I. Moran Jr., President of Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc., (CTC), located in Sweet Home, Oregon. We manage the Hill Timber Limited Partnership lands, all in Linn County.

We have a 145,000 Acre Tree Farm.

I Live in the Sweet Home area and a lifelong Oregonian raised in Linn County.

I have worked on this tree farm for the Hill family for nearly 48 years, the same owner since 1916 and held in a timber trust since 1917.

I come to you today in **Opposition of House Bill 2357**

Timber warrants a true commodity commission.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) was intended to be to timber what the other agricultural commodity commissions are to their respective commodities, for research and promotion of the commodity they represent. House Bill 2357 is a wholesale change of OFRI to an entirely different organization, currently focused on K-12 education and workforce development and specifically prohibits OFRI from carrying out its intended mission.

House Bill 2357 is driven by special interest groups, who want to overturn Oregon's Forestry Education Organization, taking money away from our school children's education to promote their one-sided agenda. These groups need to pay for their negative propaganda. Why should Oregon's forest industry cover the costs for this negative propaganda?

Oregon's forest products sector is vital to the state and warrants a commodity commission, the commission that supports the industry, that supports the commission. It is inappropriate and insulting to use industry dollars to fund anti-forestry messaging.

The forest products industry is one of the largest industries in the state, the economic backbone of many rural communities, the number one national supplier of dimensional lumber and plywood, a provider of more than 60,000 family wage jobs, and a major supporter of secondary businesses.

OFRI is funded exclusively by timber growers through the Forest Products Harvest Tax, a volume-based tax on harvested timber.

OFRI receives NO General Fund Dollars!!

Oregonians have turned to OFRI for 30 years, for education and facts about careful management of our forests and the environmental laws that protect and maintain wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water. OFRI is funded and governed exclusively by forestry professionals, providing educational opportunities and resources for more than 170,000 Oregon school children, every year, including nearly \$100,000 in transportation reimbursements for forestry field trips enabling over 25,000 students to visit our forests.

We owe our students practical educational opportunities about forestry and forest products.

OFRI has produced Oregon's Forest Protection Laws Manual, an illustrated reference for landowners, managers, and forest operators to learn and follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

OFRI is the state's commodity commission for timber, created in 1991 by the Oregon Legislature. There are 22 other commodity commissions in Oregon for agriculture. These commissions are essential conduits between Ag and the public. OFRI is an essential conduit between our industry, the public and our classrooms, providing information and education. OFRI's Oregon Forest Facts booklet is a great source of data about our industry.

I urge you to Oppose House Bill 2357. Oregonians deserve sound science and reliable facts!!

Your careful considerations are greatly appreciated.

Thank You for your service to Oregon.

Milton I. Moran Jr., President
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.
Sweet Home, Oregon