

Following is the transcript of my verbal testimony during the hearing on Monday May 10, 2021

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Sikora representing Giustina Resources in Springfield.

We are opposed to HB 2357 in its entirety for many reasons identified in my previous written testimony, but today, I would like to address the proposal to divert 50% of OFRI's private funding to ODF to "develop and apply sound forestry practices".

The problem with this is that it implies ODF hasn't already developed sound forest practices with existing funding, which already comes from private sector funds.

The largest share of the Forest Products Harvest Tax, 35%, already goes to ODF for the administration Oregon's forest practice laws. Since the first laws were adopted 80 years ago, Oregon's forest practice laws have continuously evolved as the body of science has informed rules to safeguard water, fish, wildlife, soil, and air. And, more changes are occurring through the current Private Forest Accord process.

Forest owners invest for the long term and face many risks such as fire, weather, insects, disease, and markets over the decades it takes the investment in their crop to mature. Political risk is also very real and can factor into a landowner's decisions regarding the use of their land.

Deforestation does not occur if a landowner replants following the harvest of their timber crop, but converting a forest to another use such as a vineyard is deforestation. OFRI's educational programs help forest owners keep forest land as forest land and this bill would effectively cripple OFRI's educational mission.

This is only one element of a flawed bill that is punitive and discouraging to all those that take the financial, emotional, and physical risks to make very long term investments in their private forests. OFRI's existing mission and governance is appropriate and in-line with Oregon's many commodity commissions.

Please do not pass HB 2357 out of your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my point of view with you this afternoon.