

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in support of 2357 because the Oregon Forest Resources Institute needs to be changed to present sound or responsible scientific information to our schools and the public. Prohibit OFRI from engaging in false advertising for public education

Messaging Points:

Issues with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute

OFRI misleads Oregonians with dishonest advertising: OFRI spends millions of dollars annually to push out television, radio and digital media advertisements spreading the message that Oregon's forest laws are strong. OFRI's advertisements ignore the stories of Oregonians currently experiencing the negative impacts of industrial logging, and dishonestly suggest that Oregon is a leader in environmentally sound forestry.

OFRI attempts to silence scientific research:

OFRI's members represent Big Timber: While OFRI presents itself as a government agency, the organization is dominated by the timber industry employees.

OFRI illegally lobbies against climate-smart forestry:

OFRI supports political attacks: Public employees at OFRI participated in an election campaign briefing that featured political attack ads against Governor Brown from dark money group Priority Oregon.

What We Do Want:

Climate science and climate smart forestry.

Transparency in use of public funds

Independent, science-backed curriculum without OFRI as middleman

Funding for outdoor education that doesn't have to go through OFRI

Academic freedom for scientists, unbiased support for research

Forest policy informed by the best forest science

Redirect OFRI funds to benefit the state of Oregon!

OFRI has lost its social license through its long-standing disinformation campaign and its illegal, behind-the-scenes efforts to undermine public understanding of key issues. We need independent, truthful scientific information being provided to all Oregonians!