

I support the passage of HB 2357. Also, I support the idea of prohibiting the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) from engaging in supposedly generalized advertising for public education. We Oregonians deserve climate smart forestry with academic freedom for scientists and unbiased freedom for their research. We need transparency in the use of public funds in OFRI. And, we need funding for outdoor education that doesn't have to go through OFRI. OFRI funds need to benefit our state; Oregon's forest policy needs to be informed by the best forest science. Surely, the forest fires of the past several years have painfully made that incredibly apparent. It is time to stop OFRI from being an arm of Big Timber and trying to silence scientific research related to our forests. Please vote to pass HB 2357 - all of us need a truthful, open and fully disclosing institute to pursue the health of our State and of our forests. Thank you. Susan W. Weinstein