

May 11, 2021

Dear Chair Nathan and Members of the Committee:

I am a native Oregonian who grew up in and around Oregon's forests. I am writing to support HB 2357, which is the necessary correction to forest management in my beloved home state, too long dominated by the forest industry. This bill would be the first step toward sound, science-based management of our forests in the interests of the communities who live and work in the forests and for all Oregonians.

I have been appalled at how corporate timber industries have been allowed to shape the way forests are managed to their own profit-making desires. One result is the current over-harvesting of timber in the Santiam River Canyon, where I and my husband have a home. While the State stands by, private interests ravage our fire-damaged forests. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has become the chief tool of private interests to suppress science, manipulate the public, re-write history and shape policy so that they can continue to exploit our greatest natural resource to their profit and without regard for the Oregonians who depend on our forests.

The Oregon Legislature is notorious for bending to the will of private corporate interests, especially when it comes to environmental or climate-related issues. It's time for the legislature to start building a different kind of reputation as guardian of our precious natural resources and the well-being of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,
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