

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in support of 2357 because the Oregon Forest Resources Instituted does not present sound or responsible scientific information to our schools and the general public. I support the idea of prohibiting OFRI from engaging in "generalized advertising for public education."

I also support redirecting half of the timber tax to support climate science, reporting and monitoring of pesticide use in forest operations, and adaptive management driven by research. I have the following comments:

- Support for climate science and climate smart forestry. We need to know the amount of forest carbon that is emitted by logging in Oregon. We cannot begin to reduce emissions unless we know what our impact is on the climate.
- Enhanced reporting and monitor use of toxic chemicals in our forests. ODF needs to disclose the amount of chemicals it uses, and those used by industry. The use of chemicals is impacting our drinking water, shellfish, salmon, terrestrial and aquatic life.
- Adaptive management. We need ODF to help landowners address the fire risk from private industrial forest operations. We also need to focus our resources on protecting homes and communities.

I also want to make clear that OFRI needs these constraints because of its obvious violations of principles of good government in action.

- OFRI has been promoting pro-timber material as unbiased school curriculum.
- OFRI routinely uses its finds to mislead Oregonians regarding the nature of Oregon's forest laws, suggesting they prioritize forest protection when in fact they prioritize timber industry profits.
- Shamefully, OFRI attacks scientific research and what it can contribute to our understanding of more balanced forest policies, ones that take into account the interests of the timber industry *and* of the protection of forests for their long-term timber value and climate protection contributions.
- The above is true in large part because OFRI's board is dominated by the timber industry: nine of the thirteen board members by profession and personal interests have the timber industry and profits from it at the center of their concern.
- OFRI **illegally** lobbies against climate-smart forestry. As a publicly-funded entity, OFRI is prohibited from lobbying, yet its regularly stands against climate change legislation and stronger logging regulations to protect clear and water and the communities that depend on it. This fact alone is sufficient to defund and close down OFRI altogether.
- Closely related to the latter point are the political attacks OFRI has supported through the participation of its employees in an election campaign briefing that featured political attack ads against Governor Brown from the dark money group "Priority Oregon." This too is **illegal** activity.

Because of these practices OFRI has demolished its credibility as a contributor to the discussion regarding forestry practices in Oregon and certainly may not be allowed to continue its misinformation campaign being waged over the airwaves, in public organizations and meetings, and in school curricula.

What do I want to happen as a result of 2357 going forward?

- Forestry practices informed by climate science.
- Transparency in the use of public funds
- The use of public funds for services that meet the needs of all of Oregon's citizens, including: science-based, independent forest-related curriculum for Oregon's schools; support for outdoor education that is likewise science based and not filtered through OFRI; and academic freedom for the scientists working in the field; forest policy likewise guided by the science.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. I look forward to knowing that the problems with OFRI which 2357 seeks to correct have, indeed, been addressed with the passage of this bill.

With best wishes,

Rob Kugler