

Re: HB2357

Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Revenue committee,

I am writing on behalf of my congregation's Climate Action Team, in support of HB 2357, a bill that will support sound forestry practices, small family foresters, and limit the influence of OFRI, an agency that has lost public confidence by continual, long term disregard for science and our climate crisis, in favor of unsustainable and harmful forestry practices for the sake of the highest profit to corporate executives.

HB 2357 will help redirect Oregon's forest legacy from a management of decimation for the short term dollar to one of regenerative balance. We need healthy forests and forest practices to support forest communities and help abate the forest damaging effects of climate change.

Our faith tradition and moral compass teach us to care for the earth and each other, to value truth and responsibility for cherishing all of creation. Our climate crisis and current forest practices pose a grave risk for our forests, our forest communities, and all people. Any government agency that denies the validity of science and responsible activity to protect people and planet must be rebuked, reviewed regularly, severely limited in its capacity, and completely defunded and eliminated should continued mismanagement be found.

We appreciate the accountability that is required of OFRI with the oversight of the Governor. The bill could use strong consequences to OFRI, continual defunding and elimination, should continued fraudulent activity and denial of science and unhealthy forest management be identified.

Harriet Cooke, MD, MPH
and the Havurah Climate Action Team
Portland Oregon
5-10-21