

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in support of 2357 because the Oregon Forest Resources Institute has engaged in pro-timber industry activities and propaganda which are counter to good forestry practice. I support the idea of prohibiting OFRI from engaging in "generalized advertising for public education."

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

OFRI illegally lobbies against climate-smart forestry: As a publicly funded organization, Oregon law prohibits OFRI from lobbying.

What we need:

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

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!

Thanks!