

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

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

In the past, I have actually used OFRI's curriculum with middle school students to teach lessons on propaganda - especially the use of negative and positive emotional connotations. Sadly, not all teachers know that OFRI's forestry curriculum presents only forest science that supports the timber industry, skewing information and presenting them as forest facts. OFRI purposely misleads and confuses educators and the general public, citing Oregon Forestry laws as strong and sound when science, especially forest-climate research tells us that this is not the case. OFRI gives the impression that it is a governmental agency when it is in fact, dominated by the timber industry and actively lobbies against climate change legislation and stronger logging regulations to protect clean water and communities.

Amidst the climate crisis which we are experiencing with drought and fires in our state, we must make sure that information is independent and science backed, including the amount of forest carbon that our forests store naturally compared to the amount emitted by logging in Oregon. Teachers and the public should not have to wade through false claims to try and find the scientific truth. Funding for outdoor education- such as buses, should not have to go through OFRI where teachers believe they are receiving unbiased facts, but actually are getting disinformation that is misleading and harmful to students and our state.

Please pass HB 2357 to insure that truthful scientific information on key forest issues is provided to Oregonians. Thank you.