

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Pham and Reschke and members of the House Committee on Revenue.

I am writing in support of HB 2357A. I have lived in the Northwest and studied our local botany for pleasure while attaining a Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Washington. Over the years the impacts of climate change on our temperate climate have become evident even to the casual observer. I have been actively involved with the Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT) since its inception and through this group have had the opportunity to update and deepen my knowledge about our forests and their role in sequestering carbon.

As I encounter advertisements from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute it is evident to me that they have not kept up with the science of climate change or current forestry practices. The advertisement on water quality was especially blatant given the destruction of Corbett's water system by bad logging practices. The articles in the Oregonian had even more examples of OFRI's abuse of the public trust. They clearly operate as the public relations arm of the Forest Industry. Now the public is not so easily misled.

Initially I thought abolishing OFRI was the best action. The Forest Industry could then form a private organization to interface with the public. I do like to think that we can all learn and change. I have been convinced to support the changes outlined in HB 2375A. I do recommend that the legislature and the general public closely monitor OFRI's activities over the next two years to ensure they are presenting current science and addressing the need for our forests to be managed not only for wood fiber but for sequestration and diversity.