

Testimony to the House Committee on Revenue
RE:HB 2357 Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2357 because the Oregon Forest Resources Institute does not present sound or responsible scientific information to our schools and the general public. Given OFRI's past record of marketing pro-timber propaganda as curriculum for schools, misleading Oregonians with dishonest advertising, attempting to silence scientific research, and illegally lobbying against climate-smart forestry, I believe OFRI should be prohibited 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.

HB 2357 will support 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.

We need transparency in the use of public funds, and independent, science-backed curriculum without OFRI as middleman.

We need ODF to enhanced reporting and monitor use of toxic chemicals in our forests by disclosing the amount of chemicals it uses, and those used by industry.

We also 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.

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!

Sincerely,

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