

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you today to encourage you to vote NO on HB 2357, 2379 and 2598 that either de-fund the Oregon Forest Resources Institute or eliminate it all together.

I am a teacher at the elementary level, and have personally benefitted from OFRI being able to bring 4th grade students from a low SES area to learn by experiencing the forest for themselves as opposed to looking at pictures from a classroom. These field trips also provide learning opportunities for students to learn the importance of taking care of our earth and forests.

One of OFRI's three primary program areas is K-12 education, focusing on professional development for teachers, in-class educational programs for students, field-trip transportation reimbursement, and grade-level publications for teachers and students that correlate with state science, social science, math and literacy standards. All materials created by OFRI are free. You may have heard of some of the education programs made possible by OFRI funding like:

- The Oregon Natural Resources Education Program at OSU that provides free professional development for natural resources education to teachers across Oregon
- Talk About Trees, an in-class forestry education program for pre-K through eighth grades that reaches more than 100,000 students annually.
- Forests Today & Forever that offers experiential outdoor programs for youth and adults, using working tree farms and other managed forests.
- The Rediscovery Forest at the Oregon Garden that provides K-12 students an opportunity to discover the importance of Oregon's forests, see forest management and understand how forests contribute to our quality of life.

I urge you to please vote no on these detrimental bills. Oregon's schoolchildren benefit greatly from the curriculum and literacy materials that are correlated to state standards, outdoor experiences and funding provided by OFRI's K-12 education program.

Thank you,

Ashley Cantrell, 5th grade teacher