



OREGON FNRL

39141 Richardson Gap Rd
Scio, OR 97374

RE: HB 2379

February 25, 2021

Chair Brad Witt, Vice-Chair Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Zach Hudson, and committee members.

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon FNRL (Future Natural Resources Leaders), a state CTSO, to oppose HB 2379. There are many reasons to oppose this bill, but the primary reason is to protect a vital asset to our state. The Oregon Forest Resource Institute would be cut from the budget by default if this bill passes as is. OFRI is critical to FNRL, and Forestry and Natural Resources programs throughout the state.

OFRI has been fundamental in many areas of support for teachers across disciplines. In the high school programs, OFRI worked to create educational material, including a forestry curriculum. That curriculum has helped programs in the state offer college credit from Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University.

OFRI is the primary source of professional development for teachers in Natural Resources. They have been a huge part in providing the required professional development for Perkins and have tailored the professional development to the actual needs of the teachers. Teachers leave these classes with material to teach to kids.

I urge you on behalf of FNRL to oppose the HB 2379 as it is written.

Thank You

Rex J Lowther

REX LOWTHER – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RLOWTHER@OREGONFNRL.ORG
WWW.OREGONFNRL.ORG