

Good Afternoon,

HB2357 would eliminate Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). If OFRI is eliminated, two-thirds of Talk About Tree's (TAT) budget will be eliminated. TAT reaches thousands of our school children each year, teaching them about Oregon's forests & it's resources. This would not be possible without OFRI funding.

In addition to funding TAT, OFRI provides free bussing for forest related field trips to schools around the state. OFRI also funds free teacher workshops through OSU's ONREP program.

As well as funding K-12 Education, OFRI supports landowners and provides the general public with information about our forests. It would be detrimental to all Oregonians if OFRI were to be eliminated.

Oregonians should be proud that in 1991 the Oregon Legislature Assembly created OFRI, as prior to that time we had no state wide organization to help educate the public about our state's vast forests and how we manage them.

Thank you.