

Having become increasingly aware of the negative climactic effects of indiscriminate/clear cut logging on private lands, I urge the Oregon Legislature to eliminate the tax-funded lobbying and PR arm of the timber industry known as the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. They have gone beyond the bounds of their original mission of public education, have ignored or discredited credible, peer-reviewed research regarding the evidence of the carbon release during clear-cut logging practices, and failed to educate the public about chemical contamination of water due to herbicide use. Just as with Covid, we must follow the science; in this case, to help stem the shocking advance of climate change and protect the lives of communities whose water comes through timbered lands. When an institute such as the OFRI, whose designation is public awareness and education, becomes an active influencer of lawmakers on behalf of industry, the fox has entered the henhouse. I urge your committee and the Legislature to defund and shut down this Institute. Thank you very much.