

Dear Senators and Representatives,

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.

My non profit, Choose Outdoors was the beneficiary of a grant from OFRI when we were assisting the US Forest Service bring the US Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, DC in 2018. The grant provided support for a widely distributed curriculum for third and fourth graders. It can be viewed here:

https://oregonforests.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/OFRI_CapitolTree_InstructionGuide_web-2.pdf

We encouraged the use of this curriculum in Oregon and across the country and believe it really helped us convey the many uses and benefits of our forests and forest products in connection with the historic journey to DC, following the Oregon Trail "backwards".

This grant spoke to their core program area of in-class educational programs for students and grade-level publications for teachers and students that meet or exceed state science standards. All materials created by OFRI are free.

You may have heard of some of the programs made possible by OFRI 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 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 credentialed and accredited materials and funding provided by OFRI's K-12 education program.

Thank you,
NAME

Bruce Ward
President, Choose Outdoors