

I am writing in support of HB 2357, which creates a Sound Forestry Practices board in place of the current OFRI organization. Oregon needs a forestry organization that will work for the public interest, instead of OFRI that works for private interests. It is clear that OFRI is aligned with industrial forestry interests through its promotion of false claims that are in conflict with current forestry science, such as claiming that tree plantations don't affect communities' water supplies. We must defund OFRI, which is using public funds to advance the goals of private industry. HB 2357 will fund a new Sound Forestry Practices board to align Oregon's forestry practices with the public interests of healthy forests, clean and sufficient water supplies, good forestry jobs and climate action. Please advance HB 2357 in the 2021 legislative session so that we are using public funds for the public good.