

Thank you Chairman Witt and House Committee members for the opportunity to testify, and I do so in strong support of this Bill. I only wish I were a Forest Economist with a PhD like John Talberth who wrote the OSU endorsed white paper\* blasting the logging industry and by implication its de facto representative in Oregon government, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, for promoting inefficient, deceitful and environmentally destructive practices. With his credentials and his 2017 peer reviewed paper I could more credibly expose the OFRI for doing pretty much all in its power to make slick aw shucks isn't it beautiful in the forest tv ads misleading the public into thinking that everything is just fine, don't worry Oregonians it's all good, while actually exploiting the persona of small farm timber families in order to sustain its big corporate timber industry agenda.

It's tough going up against the big money of the OFRI. Funded by Oregon taxpayers 30 years ago to educate the public about forestry and to teach landowners about sound environmental practices, they've instead evolved to do pretty much just the opposite: spent millions of taxpayer dollars promoting a media message that it's us or them, that sustainable logging science practices and good environmental forest stewardship is automatically bad for the School Fund, bad for timber families and bad for Oregon, that OFRI is synonymous with small ma and pa farms barely eeking out a living logging their land.

To challenge that I wish I could change hats and have the credibility of the Oregonian's award winning investigative reporter Rob Davis who mostly penned the 2020 expose' "How a public institute in Oregon became a de facto lobbying arm of the timber industry." Then I'd have the kind of journalistic chops you'd pay attention to as I testified about how I uncovered internal emails verifying that the OFRI employed strategies running counter to its mandate, and doing that oh so well in order to preserve their own agency and the big money logging interests they really kowtow to---not the little guy. Then I'd be able to face the onslaught of OFRI counter spin because I had irrefutable facts to support what I said.

But I'm not a scientist, not an economist and not a reporter. I'm just a guy who has lived in Oregon for over 50 years and seen up close and personal how the OFRI has greenwashed logging practices to the public while the industry itself contaminated rural community drinking waters, destroyed salmon riparian watersheds and lied to Oregonians all the while clothing itself in down home country righteousness, fiddling away while Oregon burned."

\* <https://sustainable-economy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Oregon-Forest-Carbon-Policy-Technical-Brief-1.0.pdf>

\*\* <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2020/08/what-happened-when-a-public-institute-became-a-de-facto-lobbying-arm-of-the-timber-industry.html>

Rick Rappaport  
N.E. Portland  
503.730.5554