

February 22, 2021

Protect OFRI - vote no on HB 2357, 2379 and 2598

Dear all Oregon legislators –

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. I am a [teacher, educator, program director] and have personally benefitted from OFRI by ... One of OFRI's three primary program areas is K-12 education, focusing on professional development for teachers, in class educational programs for students, field-trip transportation reimbursement, 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. These have all been excellent online teaching tools as well. 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, Denev Flatz dflatz@csd.k12.or.us

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