

For the record, my name is Kent Tresidder. I operate a tree farm near Coquille. I am a member of the Oregon Small Woodland Association and the Society of American Foresters.

I would like to begin by stating that I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. A performance audit of OFRI is being conducted by the Secretary of State. Why is this bill being considered before all the facts are on the table?
2. Section 1 of HB 2357 is redundant because it describes functions the State Forestry Department is currently doing or should have been doing under the Forest Practices Act..
3. OFRI serves as Oregon's only commodity commission for forest crops. Many other OR crops have their own commodity commissions. However, OFRI cannot lobby or directly levy assessments to industry. We forestland owners like OFRI. We pay for it. So, why is it being eliminated?
4. HB 2357 not only eliminates OFRI but converts its mission from an ASSET for forest landowners into a DEBIT. This is an outright hijacking of an agency that does something well and converts it into one which will be harmful to timber interests. To be blunt, HB 2357 is mean spirited.
5. And finally, in my view, this bill clearly impedes the freedom of expression which forestland owners currently have.

Please remember the old saying, "if it ain't broke, why fix it?" What is proposed in HB 2357 is certainly NOT an improvement for the forestland owners who pay for it.

Thank you for reading my comments.