

I support eliminating the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and its fund. I am a physician in Oregon and I care deeply about Oregon's forests and the role they play in protecting our air, water, habitat and their role in sequestering carbon and helping prevent the worst effects of climate change.

After the OPB/Oregonian/Propublica investigation, it is clear that the ORFI does not have Oregonian's best interest in mind. They act as a lobbying group for the logging industry, prioritizing short term profits over future benefit and climate and habitat stability. The ORFI has illegally lobbied to keep forest protection ideas out of the state's climate change proposal and has worked to silence scientific research from our own Universities- OSU's research on the role of the NW forests in the changing climate. If this past year has taught us anything, it is that we need to listen to scientists and make data-supported decisions.

We have a long way to go to move to a carbon neutral future and our forests are our best asset. Dismantling the OFRI will be a good first step in forest protection and a sustainable future.

Thank you for your consideration.
- Neel Patel, MD