

March 1, 2021

RE: HB 2357

Chair Brad Witt, Vice Chair Vikki Breese-IUVerson, Vice Chair Zach Hudson, and committee members,

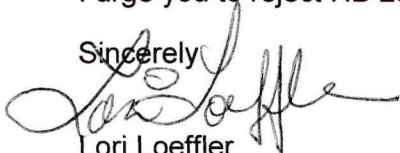
My Name is Lori Loeffler, Natural Resources CTE Teacher at Tillamook High School in Tillamook as well as the current President of the Oregon Natural Resources Educators Association. I would like to voice my opposition for HB 2357. As an educator in Oregon, the partnership with OFRI is invaluable to my teaching and the education that our students are receiving in Natural Resources here in Oregon.

Without the expertise, programs, and guidance that OFRI provides to teachers, and school children here in Oregon, we as educators cannot offer quality outdoor programs here in Oregon. Some of the things that OFRI provides to us: Professional Development on a secondary school level, educational materials and programs, sponsoring of events for students to demonstrate knowledge and skills such as Envirothon, professional expertise on boards and other education related entities, outdoor programs to get students of all ages outside and in the natural resources, they act as a liaison for districts that need advocates for outdoor education, coordinate and facilitate the coordination between high school and post-secondary educators. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

I feel that the services provided by OFRI helps make me a top quality educator here in Oregon, and a leader in Natural Resources education in Oregon and the nation. Removal of OFRI would make my job and those of my colleagues, especially new programs of study in the state, extremely difficult and highly unsupported. Without OFRI teachers would not have the professional development and programs they need to be successful in natural resources education. The partnership I have with OFRI has made me the best possible educator I can be for our students.

I urge you to reject HB 2357. Thank you.

Sincerely



Lori Loeffler

Natural Resources CTE Teacher – Tillamook High School, Tillamook, OR
President - Oregon Natural Resources Educators Association