

Benton Forest Coalition, representing over 200 citizens in Corvallis, and members in Salem, Portland, Eugene, Springfield, and Roseburg fully supports HB 2357.

The Oregon Forest Resource Institute has for too long promoted a campaign of misinformation concerning forest management practices in Oregon. As just one example, OFRI parked a semi truck trailer in Philomath on Highway 20, with a giant sign - "YOUNG FORESTS ABSORB MORE CARBON THAN OLD FORESTS". This is a lie. Peer reviewed publications from OSU's own College of Forestry indicate the opposite - that old forests in the Northwest store carbon more effectively than any other world ecosystem. This is just one example of the patented falsehoods perpetrated by OFRI. OFRI has also broken the law by repeatedly engaging in timber industry lobbying. If OFRI insists on continuing to misinform the public, let them do it with their own money. Oregon's economic future depends on the beauty of its scenery, and the billions of dollars generated by tourism and recreation, not on a stagnant industry depleting a finite resource. The last thing our economy needs is more ugly clearcuts marring scenic vistas in the Coast Range.