

To: Representative Witt and the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: Jane Stackhouse

Date: March 2, 2021

RE: HB 2357 Eliminates Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund. Establishes Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount as subaccount of State Forestry Department Account. Requires that revenue from levy of additional privilege tax under forest products harvest tax be credited to State Forestry Department Account for deposit in Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount. Directs State Forestry Department to use moneys in Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount to develop and apply sound forestry practices in collaboration with other state agencies.

Chair Witt, Vice-chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-chair Hudson and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for HB 2357 because the science of forestry management has changed and it is time for Oregon to follow that science. Not only is this essential for our private forest owners but for the State Forests managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. I know this is difficult to hear from someone who lives in the Portland Metro Area. What could I possibly know about forestry? I admit to being self-educated over the course of the past few years. This gives me a fresh perspective because all of my information is grounded in current science and not old practices.

We have excellent examples of well managed forests that offer healthy diverse forests that purify our water, store carbon, and provide a variety of timber for our building needs. When I compare what I have learned with the lessons promoted by the Oregon Forestry Resources Institute it is clear that they are promoting dated science and ideas and policy that support the exploitation of our forests. For example, their video on [clear cutting](#) concludes these cuts make sense, are necessary for economy of scale, and mimic natural processes such as fire or massive wind storm. They justify clear cutting because Douglas firs need light to grow. Compare this to a sustainably managed community forest such as the [Chimacum Ridge Forest](#) one in Washington. [Hear what people say](#) about the benefits to the community and see how they selectively harvest timber.

I am sure you are aware of the in-depth reporting by [Rob Davis](#) on forestry in Oregon. Our forest industry is failing the residents of the state by polluting our water, exploiting forests as if they are a mono crop rather than a complex network that requires diversity to thrive and survive drought and fires. The clean cutting OFRI describes as necessary has destroyed the water quality in several Oregon communities with no consequences for the logging companies.

The Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount will be able to provide independent information about state of the science forest stewardship that will improve our forests, our water quality, and continue to yield wood for building and products for generations to come. Please vote yes on HB 2357 to repurpose the funds for OFRI and move us from 'exploitive management' of our forest resources to stewardship that will help our forest survive the changes in climate that continue to stress them.