

Submitter: Daniel Robertson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3019

February 6, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3019

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee.

My name is Dan Robertson and I am a small woodland owner in the Coos Bay area. I am also a professional forestry graduate of Oregon State University and have my own Forestry Services business. I sustainably manage about 10 acres for timber production of my own land but I work with large and small woodland owners consulting on thousands of acres. Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition to HB 3019 which would practically end the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) by taking two-thirds of the funding and changing how it operates.

I understand the role my tree farm and my many clients play in contributing to Oregon's clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat. OFRI is a great asset to small woodland owners and is very helpful in educating the public regarding forestry and advocating for the biodiversity of healthy forests. Many small timberland owners have just recently inherited or obtained their forest land and have very little understanding of their responsibilities. These landowners benefit greatly from the information available through OFRI. We appreciate that the Oregon Legislature created OFRI in 1991.

Forest management is extremely complex. Not only are we continually learning about the interconnection between all the ecological components that make up a healthy, sustainable forest, but we need to continually work to better balance the economic and social factors with these ecological components. OFRI, with its public and landowner educational programs, workshops, is an important asset for landowners to educate themselves in these complex items.

Landowners and conservationists came together in 2020 to pass the Private Forest Accord. There is a great amount of information that needs to be disseminated to

both landowners and the public regarding the PFA. OFRI as it exists today has and will continue to do an excellent job with small timberland owners and the general public using science based information.

To defund OFRI would deprive Oregon school children and teachers of a valuable educational resource. We must always support the education of future generations. They are our future.” OFRI has done just that. I am thankful they have helped us educate future generations and they need to continue to do so.

Please vote against HB 3019 or any bill to eliminate or change OFRI.

Sincerely,

Dan Robertson