



February 6, 2023

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

Subject: Opposition to HB 3019

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Wells, I am the immediate past Chair of the Oregon Society of American Foresters (SAF) and am representing Oregon SAF on this proposed legislation. We are a scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession with about 700 members who work for a diverse set of employers. Oregon SAF considers educating Oregon's residents and visitors about forestry as one of our most important professional responsibilities. To facilitate our educational role, we are a member of the Partnership for Forestry Education for which the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) functions as the administrator. In this role OFRI provides critical capacity and expertise that we are not equipped to fill behind.

OFRI's programs reach the diversity of Oregonians. Through inclusive communication methods like television advertising, publications, and field trips a wide audience is reached. Young and old, rural and urban, rich and poor, all are welcome to receive a forest experience about how sustainable forest management leads to a healthy Oregon. Oregon's forest products industry pays for these programs that currently go through a review of relevant scientific forestry literature.

In summary, the Oregon Society of American Foresters believe that an educated citizenry is important to the health of Oregon's forests. Oregon Forest Resources Institute is a key player for achieving this mission here in Oregon.

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

Sincerely,

David Wells  
2390 Nielsen Road  
Tillamook, OR 97141

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Oregon SAF currently has more than 700 members who are engaged in the management of forests (plants) the only proven technology for actually removing carbon from the atmosphere.