

Submitter: Annabelle Morgan

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB3019

2/4/2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chairman

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water, and Natural Resources

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

My name is Annabelle Morgan and I reside in Washington County. I am a small woodland owner in Lincoln County and I am opposed to HB 3019 for a variety of reasons. Since the 2021 audit, OFRI is implementing changes to make its outreach even more effective and making sure the Board represents all facets of the forest industry. They ensure that experts with educational and forestland knowledge create educational materials, sponsor educational workshops for the public, woodland owners, teachers and students, pay for field trip transportation, fund research in collaboration with OSU Extension and College of Forestry, and inform public through social media. The ODF State Forester appoints voting Board Members and OSU Dean of College of Forestry plus a public representative appointed by the Speaker of the House and Senate President are non-voting members. This ensures the best oversight for supporting OFRI's purpose and implementing the educational programs which benefit all Oregonians. I support use of my harvest tax money by OFRI being used for educational purposes but not reducing the budget by 1/3rd and having other agencies in charge of that revenue which will decrease the effectiveness and ability to continue the outstanding educational programs and current and future resources as the needs of sustainable management of our forestlands and protection of our environment change. This shift of funding will create an unnecessary division and extra expense one can attribute to more bureaucracy.

My brother and I manage over 400 Acres of woodlands which have been in our family for 3 generations. As such, our heritage has given us deep roots and motivation to learn and implement best forest practices that promote and sustain a healthy environment including forest health, wildlife habitat, clean waters for salmon and other marine animals, and clean air. Just as stagnate trees cannot thrive, forestland owners also cannot thrive without continually learning how to manage forestlands in a constantly changing climate and landscape. When we pay our harvest taxes which support OFRI, we know that money gives Oregonians and us access to all the educational material and opportunities this revenue funds and promotes sustainable forestry practices through research enabling us to continue good land stewards. Their Oregon Forest Protection Laws Manual is especially important now with the newly adopted Oregon Private Forest Accord mandated management practices. Their

research-based pamphlets on all aspects of our forests and related wildlife and environmental benefits underline preserving our Natural Resources and educate youth about forestlands and related job opportunities. OFRI represents and supports one of Oregon's largest industries, forestry, the backbone of rural communities, a national supplier of wood products, a secondary source of businesses, and a source of income for over 60,000 family jobs. HB 3019 jeopardizes the ability of OFRI to support this industry, and educational opportunities for future Oregonians.

Educational materials and programs: Tree School, WOW, Master Woodland Owners, OSU Forestry Programs are important as the chasm between rural and urban areas expands. Public educators lack necessary knowledge to teach natural resource and career opportunity classes, nor are programs budgeted. It partners with OSU Forestry Research projects, develops and distributes factual materials and lesson plans to teachers aspects of the interconnectivity between maintaining healthy forests and our ecosystem. They manage the Rediscovery Forest and field trips to the Oregon Garden. Immediate cutting of Oregon Envirothon and in-kind support, will leave only Oregon lacking. Do not be a roadblock to continuing outstanding OFRI activities. Vote NO on HB 3019.