

February 7, 2023

RE: House Bill 3019

Representative Helm and fellow members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

For the record, my name is Fran Cafferata and I'm calling in today from Hillsboro, Oregon. I am a consulting Certified Wildlife Biologist® and the owner of a small wildlife consulting firm. The focus of my work is to assist large and small landowners manage intentionally for wildlife. In addition, my family owns and manages forest land in Benton, Lane and Lincoln Counties. I have over 20 years of experience managing wildlife in forested ecosystems. My entire professional career focuses on working with landowners to promote sustainable timber harvest.

In addition, I am the Contract Wildlife Biologist for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. I have been working as their biologist for over 10 years. I am directly involved in the Wildlife in Managed Forests Program which is part of the bigger Landowner Education Program. Specifically, the Wildlife in Managed Forests Program uses outreach and education to help forest landowners understand how to effectively manage their forests for both healthy wildlife populations and sustainable timber production – something I'm very proud to be a part of.

I am disappointed to learn that HB 3019 has been introduced since whatever perceived problems there may have been with the OFRI have already been addressed. This bill seems like a solution in search of a problem. OFRI has adopted or is in the process of adopting all of the recommendations that were identified in the Secretary of State's audit, and they are under the direction of a new Executive Director.

The list of changes they've already made is extensive, much of which was done under guidance from the Department of Justice including:

- Adoption of a clarifying mission statement
- Adoption of a Quality Information Policy to guide internal processes for developing, reviewing, and disseminating quality information.
- Production of guidance to staff on best practices to avoid engaging in activities prohibited by statute
- Ethics training
- Pursual of a new strategic plan
- Development of a Stakeholder Checklist process and a Public Review Process to ensure a broad array of stakeholder engagement and feedback.
- A comprehensive review of the OFRI governing statutes and original statutory intent in consultation with DOJ and Department of Administrative Services.

In closing, I encourage you to review the resources that have been produced by OFRI. They are hugely beneficial to landowners and interested Oregonians. All our resources can be found online at the OFRI website. I encourage you to learn more about the changes OFRI has made and please feel free to reach out to me with specific questions. I strongly recommend you kill this unnecessary bill.