

Submitter: Fran Cafferata

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3019

February 9, 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. I am a 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.

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 Landowner Education. Specifically, my program uses outreach and education to help forest landowners understand how to intentionally manage for wildlife and healthy forests – something I'm very proud to be a part of.

I am disappointed to learn that HB 3019 has been introduced. You heard OFRI's Executive Director Jim Paul on Tuesday say OFRI has either already adopted, or is in the process of adopting everything the Secretary of State's audit identified, from ethics training, to a new mission statement, to new policies and procedures. This bill goes far beyond the audit's recommendations and upends an organization that has been under new direction for only a few months.

I also want to take a minute to address some incorrect statements made on Tuesday. OFRI advertising about the Forest Practices Act is not new, it's what they've been doing for 30 years. What they do is help Oregonians know the laws exist – this is very different from advocating for or against changes to those rules,

Secondly, this bill does not "right size OFRI." OFRI spends less than a quarter of their budget on advertising buys. This bill de-funds OFRI by two-thirds. So in no way does it "right size" them and still allow them to perform all their core function. It guts their budget completely.

In closing, I encourage you to review the resources that have been produced by

OFRI. They are hugely beneficial to landowners and interested Oregonians. I encourage you to learn more about the changes OFRI has made. I strongly recommend you kill this unnecessary bill.