

## **RACC's letter to Oregon legislators in opposition to House Bill 3019**

March 27, 2023

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute is a critical disseminator of fact-based information about Oregon's new forest practice laws that resulted from the Private Forest Accord. Oregon has more than 75,000 small woodland owners, many of whom live in remote areas of the state and may not know about the complex new forestry laws passed last year. OFRI has established, trusted relationships with small woodland owners, and decades of experience educating landowners on forest practice rules.

Don't take that away. This is the worst possible time to eliminate OFRI's funding. Thousands of forest landowners – large and small - are reeling after devastating wildfires, scrambling to find seedlings, labor and information to get their forests green and thriving again. Please don't defund an organization who can help them.

HB 3019 is totally unnecessary. Not only is OFRI two executive directors removed from any perceived problems, they've also already implemented, or are in the process of implementing, every recommendation made through the Secretary of State's audit. Let's move on, already.

The worst part is the groups pushing for HB 3019 are the very same environmental groups who helped pass the Private Forest Accord. The forest sector has something positive to talk about, and they don't want OFRI to promote the new rules they helped pass. They want to silence the forest sector's ability to tell Oregonians about the very protections to which they agreed. Don't fall for it.

Please vote no HB 3019.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Fromdahl