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| **OSAF Chair Message** |

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| Hello OSAF Members, The Oregon legislature is now in session and they are considering three bills, HB2357, HB2379, and HB 2598 which at their core eliminate the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). Losing OFRI and its efforts to advance public understanding of forests, forest management, forest products, and to encourage sound forestry would be a blow to OSAF’s work and Oregon in general. The publications that OFRI educate landowners, foresters, students, and the general public, these high-quality informational documents are utilized everyday by Oregonians. [OFRI Publications Site](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/qIRvCPN8GkCv7ooAcj0hj9?domain=r20.rs6.net)The statement “Many tools can help professional foresters achieve and maintain healthy forests, but the use of these tools may be significantly restricted by current or proposed resource policies because of the inaccurate perceptions and concerns of interested groups.” from OSAF’s position statement “Active Management to Achieve and Maintain Healthy Forests” is a direct reference to the need for continued forest education as provided by OFRI.[OSAF Active Management Position Statement](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/dXlkCQWRXlhB5334fr4Khm?domain=r20.rs6.net) This message requests advocacy for OFRI and its educational work. Ultimately it would be good to see OFRI increase its outreach and educational programs, but that is not being legislatively considered at this time. While Oregon’s deaths outnumbered births last year, the State still grew by 16%. There are many people who are not aware that Oregon has forest laws. Others are unaware that the forest products sector is the economic backbone of many rural communities and one of the state’s largest industries providing more than 60,000 family-wage jobs.Please contact your Oregon House Representative now and request that the Oregon Forest Resources Institute continue its educational role to further the understanding of forests, forest management, and forest products. You can find your House Representative here: [Oregon Legislature Lookup](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/t7VLCR67XmSnARRPUoL8jS?domain=r20.rs6.net) Depending on the outcome of Legislative Committee hearings held next week, further OFRI advocacy action may be requested. If you would like to listen or attend these meetings, they will be online via video conferencing. Here is a link to the committee these bills are held in: [House Agriculture & Natural Resources OLIS Page](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/fzUyCVO9Wqf0D55jcWJDfF?domain=r20.rs6.net) Sincerely, Jeremy P. FeltyOSAF Chair 2021Jeremy.Felty@gmail.comOSAF Chair 2021 |

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