



March 21, 2013

Re: HB 3171

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your time today. My name is Marie Bowers, you have also heard from my dad today. I am 27-year-old 5th generation farmer in the Southern Willamette Valley. A little over a year ago I chose to leave a promising career in ag finance and return to the family farm in hopes of continuing our century long tradition. Currently, we farm meadowfoam, wheat and grass seed in two counties, Linn and Lane.

I strongly opposed HB 3171. Along with my dad, I have many concerns about what this would mean for our farm.

As the bill states, "Creates exemption from state preemption for local laws designed to prevent or control presence of pesticides in potable water."

What does this mean for pesticides used in Linn County but not Lane County yet it might get detected in Lane County? Does this mean the Lane County can then regulate what happens in Linn County because it supposedly affects potable water in Lane County or vice versa?

What if each county was allowed to regulate cars what were driven in their county? One county decides that cars are potentially dangerous and irrelevant so at the county line you have park your car and find other means of a way to go about your business. This disrupts continuity of traveling, business and puts the local economy at a disadvantage.

In the same respect if our farm in Linn or Lane County was not allowed to control weeds or pests with the tools we need that puts us at an economic disadvantage. It could impact our seed quality making our seed less valuable compared to the same crop in another county.

Pesticides are not bad. They are tools that are highly regulated by the EPA & ODA. Organic & conventional farmers both use them. They are labeled for specific crops with very specific directions on proper use. The everyday citizen uses pesticides, whether it is in their yard or their home when dealing with bacteria on a kitchen counter or getting rid of dandelions in driveway cracks. How does a county regulate private citizens who garden or the homeowner with an acre who has a blackberry problem? There are people at the state and federal level whose job is to deal with chemicals and pesticides and their overall impact & safety.

The current processes and laws have been effective. To ask for more regulation on these tools is silly and ludicrous. Please join me in opposition to HB 3171 by voting "No"

Thank you for your time,

Marie Bowers
5th Generation Farmer

31950 Bowers Drive, Harrisburg, OR 97446
www.bashawseed.com O: 541-995-8108 F: 541-995-2202