



SB 800— Relating to pesticide application reporting

Testimony to Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

01 April 2013, HR - C

Honorable Committee Members:

Oregonians for Food & Shelter (OFS) is a grassroots coalition of farmers, foresters, and other technology users focused on natural resource issues involving pesticides, fertilizer, and biotechnology. We are testifying today in opposition to SB 800. We are opposed to both the original bill and the -1 amendment, but our comments today will focus on the -1.

Senate Bill 800 sets up a new pesticide application reporting program within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and puts onerous new reporting requirements on state and local governments, and commercial pesticide applicators. It also moves significant pesticide regulatory responsibilities away from Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to DEQ and Oregon Health Authority (ODA).

Solution in Search of a Problem

Senate Bill 800 is a solution in search of a problem. Under current law, pesticide applicators must create and keep application records for three years. If a question arises about a particular application, ODA (or Oregon Department of Forestry for forestry applications) has the authority to request copies of those records. ODA is the pesticide regulatory agency for the state and has a division devoted to the regulation of these products. These experts are best equipped to analyze this information for regulatory compliance. In contrast, neither DEQ nor OHA have the expertise or authority to regulate pesticides.

Creates a Costly New Reporting Program

Senate Bill 800 asks DEQ to create an entirely new pesticide application reporting program. This will take new staff and infrastructure, and add a large cost to an agency that is already facing budget cuts. Additionally, there will be a fiscal impact to state agencies and local governments to begin a new recordkeeping process-- putting another unfunded mandate on entities that cannot afford it. It will also have an impact on commercial applicators, as they would have to ensure that their records are submitted to DEQ every 60 days.

ODA is the State Pesticide Regulator

Senate Bill 800 would move a significant portion of ODA's pesticide responsibilities to DEQ and OHA. Neither of these agencies are equipped for this responsibility, and it would only hurt the regulatory efforts of ODA. ODA is the state delegated agency on pesticides and need access to application records. They currently have the authority to obtain those documents. This bill would strip ODA of the access to records that they need to perform their incident investigation duties. Senate Bill 800 make these records

*Executive Director- Scott Dahlman -- Grassroots Director- Paulette Pyle -- Office Manager- Sandi Schukar
(503) 370-8092 ofsonline.org*



available only to DEQ and OHA—two agencies with no regulatory authority of pesticides. This would be a major step backwards in pesticide regulation, and make it nearly impossible for ODA to fulfill its regulatory role in this arena.

Senate Bill 800 creates a ton of new work for an already fiscally strapped agency, burdens local governments and pesticide applicators with a new mandate, and strips ODA of the authority it needs to carry out its regulatory duties, all with no appreciable benefit.

Please oppose SB 800.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scott J. Dahlman

Executive Director