

Post Office Box 1295
La Pine, Oregon 97739

Ms. Beth Patrino
Committee Administrator
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 26, 2013

Re: HB 3364, Relating to integrated pest management.

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill 3364. We need uniform standards that our state agencies and entities must follow when applying pesticides. I urge the committee to amend this bill with the consensus amendment and give it a “do pass.”

I first became involved with pesticides and government when Klamath County sprayed subdivisions of North Klamath County with Outpost 22K, a harsh defoliant containing Picloram. Picloram was the major ingredient in Agent White in the Vietnam War. Klamath County was spraying for spotted knapweed, but the area sprayed was porous soil with a high water table. Directions clearly indicated, do not spray in porous soils, areas of high ground water, in residential areas or around trees and gardens. If the Department of Agriculture had to follow the conditions of this bill, it is doubtful that Klamath County would have sprayed.

Pesticides appear to do the greatest harm to the most vulnerable. The veteran population for the census tract in North Klamath County has a 19% veteran's population (n = 519). Of the population most likely to have served in Vietnam (age 65 to 74), 46% are veterans. A review of the “Taps” section of the *The VVA Veteran* reveals that a large number of death are veterans in their early to mid sixties. Often, the listed cause of death was cancer. Exposure to the apparently carelessly applied Picloram might be the trigger to activate cancer cells in some of the veterans in North Klamath County. The other population group most vulnerable are the young children. About 6% of the population in North Klamath County are the very young (0 to 9 years of age). Government has a responsibility to protect all of us, especially the most vulnerable.

Again, I urge you, amend this bill as discussed and give it a “do pass.”

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Huddle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Huddle, Ed.D.

U.S. Army Veteran