



DICKMAN FARMS, INC.

April 1, 2013

Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

VIA: Email to Jennifer Lutman<jennifer.lutman@state.or.us>; USPS to follow

RE: In opposition to SB 800

Chair Senator Dingfelder, and honorable members of the Committee:

I'm writing you today in strong opposition to SB800, which would require our farm to report all pesticide applications to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality within 60 days of application.

My family farms in Marion and Clackamas counties, producing both food crops, like green beans, sweet corn, cauliflower and onions, and seed crops, including certified turf seed. We also have experience producing certified seed wheat, and sugar beet seed. Many of our vegetable customers are very concerned about our pesticide use, and contractually require us to use only "labeled" products, in full compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Using pesticides responsibly is critical to our success.

I don't mind responding to my customer's needs, but adding an additional level of compliance, and the recordkeeping burden of SB 800, is more than I can stand. Furthermore, this issue has already been discussed and discarded in Oregon: Several years ago, legislation required us to report to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, but budget cuts quickly eliminated this program, in favor of more important things (pesticide reporting has a "public" cost, which you may consider as you debate this bill; it also has a "private" cost, which will further burden me, and every agricultural producer in our state; I'm certain this burden will be ignored in your deliberations, but let me assure you, it's very real!).

Oregon farmers are already at a competitive disadvantage: Higher minimum wages, burdensome land use laws, and high income and estate taxes make us uncompetitive with farmers in other parts of the country. Don't add one more layer of cost.

Please reject SB 800 for the good of Oregon agriculture. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Mark Dickman