

I am writing with concern over SB800. I believe it is imperative we keep Oregon Department of Agriculture in charge of the pesticide operators application records. We have enough bureaucracy in this state and it is time to stop the foolishness of creating more regulations and to update and consolidate what we have implemented already. I know most of the concern is for the large pesticide operators and the overdrift of pesticides and concerns for the neighborhoods now built in the middle of prime farmland. I believe the bill is designed to protect against the 'overuse' of pesticides.

What really should be discussed is how to make organic pesticides and herbicides that actually work, then we wouldn't have as many concerns or issues.

WE KNOW THAT:

Pesticide operators already keep records that are available in the event that ODA needs to do an investigation.

- DEQ would need to create at least one new position just to handle the paperwork load at a time that our natural resource agencies are already facing budget cuts.**
- Shifts significant pesticide responsibilities from Oregon Department of Agriculture to DEQ and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).**
- ODA has an entire division devoted to regulating pesticides, and has access to the needed expertise on the issue which DEQ and OHA lack.**

We have a dairyfarm and have to have MSDS sheets for all of our medicine, chemicals and also records of manure application. We use the ODA for numerous tests and information and keeping it at the state level is less confusing. All of this takes time and extra manpower. By implementing new laws instead of streamlining what we have is just wrong.

Please correct this situation and be the leader of change in the right direction.

Thank you,

Loretta Peterson

Tillamook, Oregon