

From: Fiora Starchild Wolf [<mailto:fiora.starchildwolf@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 9:40 PM

To: Rep Witt; Gallagher Chuck; Rep Holvey

Subject: Please support HB 3123, HB 3482, and HB 2589

Dear Representatives Witt and Gallagher,

I am writing in great support of House Bill 3123, which would ban the application of pesticides by air, HB 3482, which would establish reporting requirements for government and commercial application of pesticides, and HB 2589 would ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in Oregon.

The People of Oregon pride ourselves in our beautiful, fertile lands, our quality of life, our clean water and air, and our leadership for the rest of the country. It is long past time we take action on the three items on Representative Holvey's bills.

House Bill 3123: I have personally known families who have been sickened, in sometimes disabling ways, after commercial logging operations have sprayed. Air application by helicopter cannot be contained, and harms both humans and wildlife, as well as toxifying land that is being used to grow food, and water that needs to be available to drink and water gardens. It is far past time for this method of pesticide, herbicide, and other toxins to be permanently banned. Even if this proves to be an expense to private logging companies, it is not acceptable to have residents of the surrounding area bear the costs for these companies to profit. Not in Oregon. Not where we care.

House Bill 3482: This goes hand in hand with HB 3123. Without reporting requirements, it can be extremely difficult for families to even know what toxins they may have absorbed into their bodies, which then makes it difficult to know how to treat illnesses or to know when they have reached extreme levels. People who may be affected by the application of toxic applications must have access to information so that they may protect their families and themselves from the worst of these effects.

House Bill 2589: I have lived in Oregon for 25 years, and I garden organically. Because of this, my gardens have always been full of bees, butterflies, pollinators of all kinds. I am seeing less and less of these wild species, and this loss has been traced directly to neonicotinoid pesticides. These pesticides not only kill pollinators on contact, but also persist in the soil indefinitely, creating long term effects through the plants the pollinators visit. If one can imagine a season without bees, one must imagine unfertilized fruit and nut trees, berries, all an essential part of the Oregon economy, not to mention our own health.

These must be banned.

Again, please vote in favor of these three bills.

Sincerely,

Theresa Fiora Starchild-Wolf

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