

November 25, 2014

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I've worked in Curry County as a logger for the past quarter century. I've done every part of logging from cutting trees, setting chokes, tending hooks, chasing and being a preferred yarder engineer. I earned a lot of respect from my fellow timber men for being one of the best at my job. When I wasn't working, I'd take my boat out on the Rogue River for salmon fishing.

But after a logging company sprayed herbicides all over the hill behind my house everything has changed for me.

I went from being a strong and robust guy to barely weighing 153 pounds and needing to hold onto a handrail to go down my four front steps. My health is ruined, and I can't work anymore. I get all my drinking water from the stream behind our home, just like a lot of other rural Oregonians. After the hillside and my stream were sprayed, I became so seriously ill that I'm completely unable to work at my job. Three of my dogs have mysteriously died. The doctors tell me I've been poisoned but they can't figure out what it is.

I believe that the herbicides and the petroleum oil that timber companies spray by helicopter in my community leached into my drinking water intake. When I cleaned out my holding tank, the water was oily and had a chemical smell. That isn't normal. Take it from a logger, we need the timber jobs, but we don't need aerial sprays! I want something done in Oregon to make sure no one suffers like I have from herbicide poisoning.

Sincerely,

James Aldridge
33936 Cedar Valley Rd.
Gold Beach, OR 97444