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December 4, 2014

Senator Micheal Dembrow
900 Court Street NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Dembrow and Committee Members:

I am writing this letter in hopes you may have a better understanding what victims of aerial pesticide exposure experience.

Having worked in the wood products industry, I understand timber is vital to Oregon's economy and I have been a supporter for renewable resources. However, after experiencing the lack of accountability between government agencies and continuing in a "business as usual" attitude, it is absolutely appalling to me that this whole practice boils down to nothing more than poison for profit. Industry profit should not be placed above protecting public health.

I am one of many across the State of Oregon that began feeling ill after being subjected to aerial herbicide application. What you should know, is that one year prior to the 2013 Gold Beach incident exposure, I requested an investigation for an aerial herbicide operation that took place near my residence on October 19, 2012 in high winds. After attempting to go through ODA and ODF department channels with no results I requested the help of Commissioner Susan Brown (Curry County) with supporting documents of my allegations of the label violation application that had taken place. It was some time before Commissioner Brown shared a reply from Katie Coba with me.

In that letter, Ms. Coba's facts were not correct about my request for an investigation and stated that since it was only a "concern" about past actions that no investigation was warranted. However, a public record email between District Forester Jim Young (Coos/Curry) and Stewardship Forester Stacy Savona indicates my true intent for requesting an investigation:

From: YOUNG Jim W
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 10:19 AM To: SAVONA Stacy
Cc: KOREIVA Tuch J; YOUNG Jim W; LORENZ Dave C
Subject: Crook Estates Spray

Fyi-I got a call from Jessica Haavisto from ODA yesterday. She said Jim Sweeney called her and wanted ODA to investigate the October spray on Crook Estates. She said they didn't have a reason to investigate but Mr. Sweeney wouldn't take "no" for an answer. She referred him to Mike Odenthal at Salem ODA. Mike is the person that has been ODA's point for the Hwy 36 (Pitchfork) spray issue. I don't expect that ODA will start an investigation.
Dave - Mr. Sweeney is one of the concerned neighbors for an upcoming spray operation on Crook Estates out of

Gold Beach. He Claims that in October, an aerial spray project on Crook Estates was conducted in 30 mph winds.

Jim Young

Coos District Forester Oregon Dept. of Forestry 541-267-1741 Cell 541-294-1278

The point of the above email is to show how past actions of both the ODF and ODA have shielded the Legislators from the truth. I believe others within the State of Oregon who should have had past spray operations with justified cause for an investigation were either hindered, or denied by state agencies.

I requested an investigation from the ODA for an aerial herbicide application that took place on October 19, 2012 near my residence, with proof of a label violation verified by a federal weather station records. My request was denied!

Approximately one year later this same pilot was responsible for the Cedar Valley/Gold Beach incident. Why were his past actions ignored by the ODA and my legitimate complaint ignored?

If you would like an answer, I request that you request an investigation before the three-year statute runs out.

I would have liked to deliver this letter in person but had to leave the state in order to seek medical intervention after being rejected as a patient by a local physician that does not want anything to do with a person who maybe a spray victim. In brief I have had an unexplained weight loss of twenty-two pounds. Veterinarians' call it wasting disease – physicians call it autoimmune disorder. My medical condition caused by herbicide exposures has restricted my ability to work and participate in a healthy productive life.

Besides the physical ailments, the financial burden of medical bills are compounding in addition to having to purchase water in fear that my well has been contaminated.

Will this committee have the fortitude to make the necessary changes to truly protect its citizens against future exposures and safe guard its state waters for future generations?

Note: All claims supported by documentation provided upon request.

Signed,
Jim Sweeney