



March 26, 2015

RE: **OPPOSE:** HB 2589, HB 3123, HB 3483
SUPPORT: HB 3428, HB 3434, HB 3429, HB 3430

Chairman Witt and members of the committee,

I am Marie Bowers and I am 5th generation farmer in Linn and Lane Counties. We grow primarily grass seed, wheat and meadowfoam.

I am here today in support of HB 3428, HB 3434, HB 3429, HB 3430 as well as in opposition to HB 2589, HB 3123, HB 3483. While much of the testimony you hear and read today will speak to the different specifics of each bill, I would like to address them all as a bigger picture.

Currently, Oregon has the tools they need to effectively address the pesticide concerns that have been brought about in the recent years. However tools cannot work effectively without the right application. Ironically, just like pesticides.

The four bills I support do just that. It gives direction to the tools that the Department of Agriculture currently has to efficiently address pesticide concerns. These bills will properly fund current programs, establish guidance for pesticide complaints and ensure aerial applicators are highly competent.

The bills I oppose are unnecessary regulation. They would take away an application method or particular pesticide from farmers or foresters without a viable alternative. It would be punishing the responsible majority of us who follow the label and the laws. In Oregon there are 27 million acres in farms and private forestland. The complaints & violations compared to the land being actively managed is miniscule and does not justify more regulation.

I urge you to listen to the science and the professionals that use these tools. There is no need for additional regulation, especially if we establish methods and funding for the current tools.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Marie Bowers

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