



Thursday, March 26, 2015

Re: HB 3428, 3430 HR D Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chair Witt, members of the Committee: Thank you for holding the hearing on HB 3428 and HB 3430. For the record, I am State Representative Betty Komp, representing House District 22, Woodburn, Gervais and North Salem.

I am pleased to urge your support of two bills that help our farmers and their neighbors concerning pesticide application within Oregon. I have been working on this issue for over 2 years now and am eager to see Oregon moving in a direction that serves both farmers and Oregonians as a whole.

HB 3428 will help ensure aerial pesticides in Oregon are properly applied to our crops and fields. This bill certifies that aerial spraying applicators hold valid pesticide applicator license, valid commercial pilot certificate and have 50 or more hours of experience as a pesticide applicator or pesticide trainee under the supervision of a pesticide applicator. In addition, to help maintain best practices in our agriculture industry, applicators are required to complete 10 credits hours of continuing education specifically related to the aerial application of pesticides every five years and to pass an exam that demonstrates knowledge of the proper way to apply pesticides aerially.

In addition, I urge your support of HB 3430. I have been working the Oregon Department of Agriculture to create a system of filing their pesticide related complaints. The Department has had no other resource for Oregonians with pesticide concerns than the general complaint line, which had no specific pesticide related services or information. In addition, ODA had no means of recording or tracking complaints concerning pesticide application. The Pesticide Analytical and response Center (PARC) have worked in order to create a formal complaint form and process within multiple departments and a dedicated toll-free phone line and complaint filing system is the next step. We cannot know the true state of pesticide use or misuse in our state without more standardized data being collected. This bill will rectify the problems within our record-keeping and aid in informing our Agricultural Department to the true state of pesticide use within Oregon.

These bills move Oregon towards a system of accountable pesticide use. Creating a means of providing for proper application of aerial pesticides by experienced applicators and helping track and respond to complaints and issues caused by pesticide application. I urge your support for House Bill 3428 and HB 3430, as a way to help our Oregonian farmers and residents.

Thank you for your time today.