



## DICKMAN FARMS, INC.

Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon

March 26, 2015

RE: HB 2589, HB 3428, HB 3123, HB 3434, HB 3429, HB 3430, and HB 3482

Chairman Witt, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Dickman; I am part of a family farm growing vegetables and seed crops east of Mt. Angel. I have made my living working full time on this farm since graduation from OSU in 1975. I have been a licensed private applicator since 1977. I am appearing before you today in support of House Bills 3428, 3429, 3430, and 3434, and in opposition to House Bills 2589, 3123, and 3482. Let me briefly explain why.

HB 3428 reasonably increases licensing requirement for aerial applicators. Although application of pesticides by airplane or helicopter on our farm is an infrequent practice, it is still an important option that I need to have available. I know this practice can raise some concern on the part of neighbors who do not understand what we are doing. I think raising the standards for aerial applicators shows our industry's commitment to doing this job according to the highest standards, with safety and well-being of our neighbors in mind. Professional applicators that I would hire are willing to meet these standards. All applicators should. Please pass this bill.

HB 3429, HB 3430 and HB 3434 all strengthen public agencies, particularly the Oregon Department of Agriculture, to better administer existing pesticide rules and regulations. Agencies need resources to do the jobs we charge them to do. These bills show my industry, and all Oregonians, that we're serious about using pesticides correctly. Please pass these bills.

HB 2589 is an unreasonable, knee jerk reaction to a perceived problem that does not exist, and the cure could be worse than the problem. Bees were killed with neonicotinoid products because of some careless or unscrupulous operators. When used according to law, these products are not harmful to bees. Neonicotinoid insecticides are a particularly safe and effective method of controlling some common pests; we have used two such products in our cauliflower for aphid control. Please don't force me to use less effective pyrethroids, or more dangerous organophosphates, in place of these good products. Please do not pass this bill.

HB 3123 is also unreasonable. Aerial application of pesticides, as I mentioned earlier, is an important tool. It is no less accurate, or more dangerous, than ground application methods. Use HB 3428 to bring all aerial applicators in line with modern application skills and techniques; don't eliminate this practice. Please do not pass this bill.

HB 3482 creates a burdensome pesticide reporting program that will bring no value to Oregon's citizens, and will only cost us all money. If you require this now, I fear you will require all applicators to report in the near future. This is unreasonable. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.