

Chair Hoyle and members of the House Rules Committee -

My name is Kathy Hadley and I am writing to express my support of HB 3549 and encourage you to pass the bill out of committee without additional amendments. I farm 850 acres just west of Salem with my father, and 350 acres with my husband in the Silverton area.

Pesticides are such a tough issue, but I really feel like the basis of concern from a large part of the public comes from a lack of public education by us as farmers to what we are really doing and why, and the misunderstandings and misinformation that helps create and perpetuate. For example, when someone sees us spraying, a large percentage of people do not realize that what they are seeing coming out of our machines is mostly WATER. When I fill my 200 gallon tank, I will put maybe a gallon or two of the actual pesticide in the solution, to spray around 15 acres . That quantity obviously varies depending on the specific chemical uses and purpose of application, but my point is the active ingredient used is such a minute percentage of what people see.

We are also extremely careful following labels and not adding extra volume beyond the labeled recommendations. Chemicals are not cheap and we do not want to waste them or our money by doing so. Also, we do not want to cause crop or environmental damage for many reasons. We obviously don't want to affect our growing crop & thus our income, but also long term, we do not want to have negative environmental impacts which would negatively impact the long term viability of our farms. I want my 2 & 4 year old boys to be able to continue our farms when they are grown up if they want to!

I know there has been significant discussion surrounding aerial applications. I just watched a plane put a fungicide on our field peas this morning. I have been nothing but impressed with the safety concern and consideration from the company we work with. Unfortunately there are bad apples in every industry, but those operating responsibly should not be punished for the actions of those few. I think this bill as written provides mechanisms to target those bad actors without hindering responsible applicators.

That being said, I do understand the concern from the public and constituents, and we as agriculturists and natural resource managers need to provide reassurances that what we are doing is safe, carefully managed, and not posing threats to anyone or the environment. HB 3549 helps us as farmers and timber operators provide these assurances, without negatively impacting our ability to continue our operations and support state and local economies. The value of natural resource industries in this state is significant, and as a state we need to ensure that management is responsible without tying the hands of those that literally feed and house us.

Thank you for your consideration, and again, please support and pass HB3549 as written, without amendments.

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