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RE: HB 3549
Committee Members;

May 21, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Lucie La Bonté. I am President of the League of Women Voters of Curry County, past Curry County Commissioner, past member of the Healthy Streams Partnership and the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Water Quality Program Committee.

It is my hope that the Oregon State Legislature will address the problems with implementation of Aerial Spraying in our great state. The present system is broken and citizens from around the state are having bad health problems due to this practice.

Checking into notification methods, Curry County's Emergency Service's Department, Coos Curry Electric and the Curry County Planning Department all have notification processes. Some have computer software that dials up homeowners. Proper notification could occur by snail mail with a caveat for weather change, "If weather does not permit spraying in this window there will be further notification to residents as to the change by..." This could be done by letter, computer phone dial up message software, email or through the press (radio, newspaper). The technology is there. This benefits landowners and timber companies because if people can bring their animals and families indoors or go off the premises during operations no one gets harmed, health wise or legally.

I am sure that my friends in timber would rather Oregon addresses this issue than have to face the federal regulation. For years I have worked on salmon issues to prevent federal listings. Unfortunately, in Curry County Coho are listed under the Endangered Species Act. If it is determined that spraying has indeed harmed Coho in the Lobster Creek or the Rogue River drainage there may be a federal issue. Addressing safety concerns to do this right, better notification, better buffer zones for schools, houses and streams, authorizing better investigations by health authorities when a violation occurs, benefits everyone involved.

As water quantity issues become a major concern in our state we need to address water quality issues and make every effort to protect this valuable resource for humans, fish and farms. Recently the third world country of Columbia outlawed aerial spraying. If Oregon is going to endorse this use let's figure out a way that it can be done safely to protect farmers, ranchers, the public, the timber industry and our valuable resources. Thank you!