

Date: May 21, 2015

To: Oregon House of Representatives Committee on Rules

From: Clair Klock – Farmer and Resource Conservationist

Chair Hoyle and Committee members

I am Clair Klock – a farmer from Corbett, OR in the Columbia Gorge. I am also a part-time resource conservationist with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. I am a licensed chemical private applicator and consultant. I have a strict integrated Pest Mgmt. program on my farm that used restricted chemicals on occasion.

The conservation district spends a great amount of time educating people on the proper use of pesticides in an effort to improve water quality.

I testified earlier this session on the pesticide issue. I am in favor of HB 3549 because it addresses most of the concerns I have.

Although my farm has been adversely impacted by aerial chemical spray trespass in the past, I still believe that it is necessary on large production farming operations. It is not practical or in the best interest of the public to ban aerial spraying as some people advocate. The one item that the bill does address adequately is violation fines. Even if doubled for agricultural and forest chemical violations, the sum still seems to be so small that it is still just a part of doing business for some companies. We will just have to see if doubling the fines is enough to reduce abuse of chemicals.

Thank you for your attention