



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281  
OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG  
WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To: Members of the House Rules Committee  
From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club  
Date: May 21, 2015  
RE: House Bill 3549

Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony in support of House Bill 3549 in conjunction with the -1 amendments.

As an organization with a long history working on forests and public health in Oregon, the Oregon Sierra Club supports efforts to reduce the use of pesticides. We are especially interested in limiting the effects of the aerial spraying of pesticides and herbicides, and we were thus enthused about the proposals contained in the late, lamented Senate Bill 613.

However, given the demise of SB 613, we do believe that HB 3549 and its -1 amendments are an incremental step forward, though much more really needs to be done. The inclusion in the -1 amendments of notification to the public before spraying and a requirement for better and more public record-keeping for what gets sprayed are steps in the right direction. And the addition of a requirement for buffer zones around schools, playgrounds, and drinking water sources would make for an even more meaningful bill. We hope the legislature will come back next session and pass legislation that includes adequate buffers, and further refines ideas around the prior public notification of spraying and the requirement of public record-keeping on what has been applied.

But for now, we are pleased that HB 3549 and the -1 amendments make progress toward those goals and we are thus supportive of them as a package. Pending the introduction of other amendments which either further expand or limit the policies explicated in HB 3549, we of course reserve the right to change our position on this legislation.

Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.