



May 28, 2015

Rep. Val Hoyle, Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE, Room 64
Salem, Oregon 97301

HB 3549 – Support for Current Version

Dear Rep. Hoyle and Members of the House Rules Committee:

HB 3549 would require the Department of Forestry to collect and analyze information regarding the sufficiency of current requirements to protect areas in proximity to forestland from the impacts of pesticides applied by aircraft. It is a compromise bill that is the product of a work group and, while it is not perfect, it is something the Farm Bureau and our partners can support.

At the May 21 hearing before the House Rules Committee, the -4 amendments were adopted which provide for 60 foot buffer zones. Marion County Farm Bureau does not object to these amendments.

However, Marion County Farm Bureau does not support any additional changes to the original bill as negotiated by the work group and we are, in particular, opposed to the -5 amendments. Further, MCFB opposes any requirement for landowners to provide notice of any planned pesticide aircraft application to lands adjoining forestland as to the Forestry Department, including location and time of application, and notification after the fact.

We encourage your support of HB 3549 in its current form as negotiated by the interested parties, including Oregon Farm Bureau, and urge you to oppose additional changes such as the -5 amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Zielinski".

John Zielinski, President