

**Testimony to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
on Senate Bills 500 and 892**

March 22, 2017

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports SB 500 and SB 892 extending protections for human health and water quality from the unintended impacts of pesticide application.

Aerial spraying of pesticides inherently carries risks of drift and over spraying. The chemicals used can have unintended harmful impacts to people, fish and wildlife through direct airborne exposure or via contamination of surface and drinking water sources. Together, SB 500 and SB 892 provide a common sense, easy to implement approach to assure responsible and accountable application of pesticides.

SB 500 simply recognizes that 60 days may not be sufficient to reveal harmful impacts of pesticide application to neighboring property owners or downstream residents, and that required reports from the state may not even be completed within the 60-day window. Extending the timeframe for impacted neighbors to seek remedy for damage aligns with both Idaho and Washington law, and Oregonians deserve the same protections.

Notification prior to aerial applications of pesticides and reporting of actual applications and conditions following are basic practices for responsible use of chemicals in the environment. HB 892 employs an existing database and electronic notification system to ensure state agencies and neighboring property owners can access information about when, what and where aerial applications are planned and executed. This allows neighbors to prepare and to be informed about the types of chemicals used in the vicinity of their properties. It also allows the state to conduct timely water testing to determine if chemicals are inadvertently moving into drinking water systems. Accurate recording of chemicals applied and the conditions under which they were applied is a common sense, accountable approach to assure careful application of chemicals with potential human health and water quality impacts.

We strongly support HB 500 and HB 892 and urge your approval.