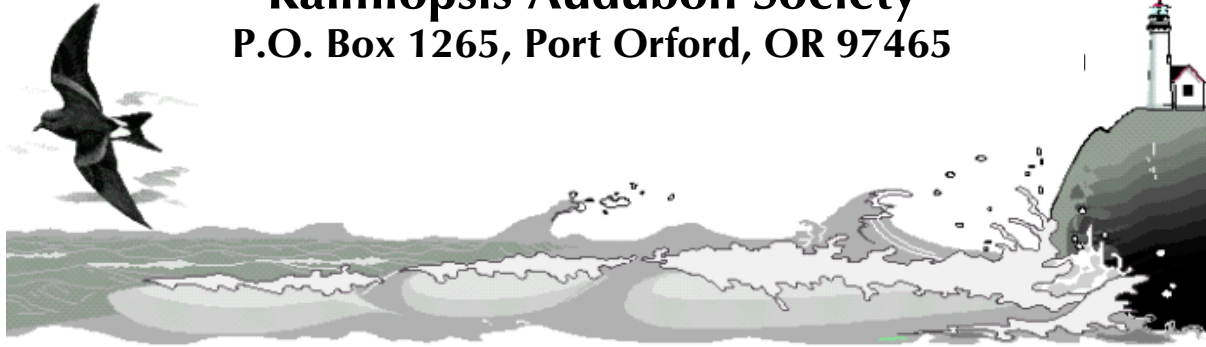


Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1265, Port Orford, OR 97465



March 22, 2017

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Regarding: SB 892, Advanced Notice for Aerial Timber Sprays and Pesticide Reporting

Testimony from Tim Palmer, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

I am writing on behalf of Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has more than 300 members in Curry County.

Across 5.8 million acres of industrial forestland in Oregon, which accounts for 20 percent of woodlands statewide, logging companies can spray herbicides and pesticides with relatively little regulation. And they spray far more than their own land and trees. Thousands of homes, plus schools, public water supplies, farms, pets, dairy cows, recreation sites, and untold mileage of public roads, trails, and waterways full of fish are within reach of the aerial herbicide applications, or they're completely unprotected, with no buffers at all, from routine aerial spraying.

The resulting exposure to 2,4D, atrazine, and other toxic chemicals might be expected by anyone familiar with these substances. In Cedar Valley, near the Rogue River, 40 people were sickened and many went to the hospital suffering from the effects of spraying over their homes in 2013. This is just one of many similar events of chemical trespass damaging to the citizens of Oregon.

Health emergencies stemming from aerial spraying have occurred in 11 Oregon counties. Symptoms included nausea, rashes, diarrhea, headaches, asthma attacks, bloody noses, and dead pets. Recognizing these problems, as well as others affecting fish in our streams, the U.S. Forest Service stopped all spraying 22 years ago. In contrast, the State of Oregon has taken virtually no action to protect its citizens, lands, and waters.

After uproar following the Cedar Valley poisonings, modest rules were reluctantly adopted that increased the state's no-spray buffer requirement from zero, which it had been, to 60 feet around homes and schools. That's less than 30 steps out the door. And for that buffer

requirement to have any effectiveness at all, one would have to assume that the wind does not blow in Oregon. Or, for that matter, that the helicopter itself doesn't blow the misted chemicals beyond the zone directly beneath it.

While this situation will not be corrected by SB 892, some of the most egregious effects would be ameliorated. This bill would take the nominal step of requiring industrial sprayers to notify the public five days ahead of spraying and to notify the Department of Forestry within 5 days afterwards.

Can anyone argue that Oregonians should not be given the courtesy of knowing when it's dangerous to be in their own yards?

Can anyone argue that school teachers should be barred from knowing when it's hazardous for children to take recess in their own school playground?

With the new law, the doctors who tried to help those victims of Cedar Valley—but couldn't because the perpetrating industry refused to reveal what chemicals had been used—might at least know how to treat their patients (after five days).

If any of us were doused with weed killer and had to go to the emergency room, surely we would want our doctor to know how to treat our bloody cough, or worse.

The outrageous fact is that, without passage of this bill, we will not have that critical warnings or the critical knowledge of toxins to which we have been exposed.

As our elected officials, Oregon state senators have the opportunity, the responsibility, and the obligation to pass this bill.