

**From:** ggce@aol.com  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#); [Sen Roblan](#); [Sen Beyer](#); [Sen Prozanski](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB892 and SB500  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:40:34 PM

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Good day,

Whitewater Forests is a small family owned company with forests located in Lane and Douglas Counties. Our forests are certified under the Oregon and American Tree Farm systems. We are very proud of the sustainable management we practice on our lands. We are good neighbors and reliable community members who contribute to the economy, environment and livability of Oregon.

Typically we plant about 400 trees on each acre after harvesting. We invest about \$ 1 per tree to plant seedlings. Commonly we may spend another \$ 1 or so per tree in the first few years to assure each tree has the chance to grow to maturity. This may include 1 to 3 time application of pesticides or herbicides to prevent suffocation by undesirable plant competition or protect our new forest from pests. Our lands are located in the coast range and these valuable tools allow us to quickly and economically get a new forest growing.

SB 892 and SB 500 are both risky ventures for Oregon's small woodland owners. They will add to our cost and make reforestation efforts more difficult. SB 892 would impose unreasonable requirements for notification for aerial application of forest pesticides. Use of these methods are dependent on favorable weather and SB 892 leaves a forest operator guessing far in advance. In many cases the advance scheduling required on collaborative projects will leave the small forest owner without a fair chance to participate.

This issue was addressed in 2015 via HB5019 funding ODF to improve the notification format for such projects. The new capabilities are to come on-line in April 2017. It is sensible to allow the new process to work rather than layering additional requirements. SB 892 will increase our cost and in many cases eliminate forest chemicals as a safe and effective tool.

SB 500 would eliminate the timely "report of loss" for filing a complaint about the use of pesticides. Timely use of the designated process is in the best interest of all.

We urge your opposition to SB 892 and SB 500. Both are impractical, unreasonable and will add cost, risk and hamper the use of proven, safe and effective forestry methods.

Sincerely,  
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