

March 21, 2017

Honorable Committee Members,

I'm writing today to urge your opposition to SB 892. I work as a forestry manager for a company that advises, coordinates and supervises aerial application in Oregon. Knowing what it takes to schedule pesticide applications, especially in the Pacific Northwest where weather is anything but predictable, I can confidently say that it would be impossible for us to reasonably comply with the notification requirements in SB 892.

Aerial applications are weather dependent, meaning that we can only apply during specific weather conditions. To make a safe effective application we need a certain set of weather conditions. Wind, rain, fog, temperature and humidity can pause or stop the application.

I had intended to come testify in the public hearing, but am unable to attend because of a possible spray operation. I'm currently on the southern coast and have been here for six days. Of those six days, we have only been able to make applications on two of them. I have 73 units on this job, and we get them done only when the weather conditions allow a safe and effective application. On any given day we "may" have 1-6 hours of favorable conditions, but there is an equal chance that the weather doesn't cooperate and we end up having to wait until the conditions are favorable again. Sometimes this can be several days as is the case for me over the last week.

The bottom line is that we only spray when conditions are good, because we want to make the safest possible applications. Because of this, I can't even accurately predict what units we will be working on tomorrow, let alone a week out. SB 892 would require me to make that guess at least seven days ahead of time, which really makes it nothing more than a slightly educated guess. That would be difficult enough if I had one unit where I was making that guess, but I have to make that call on hundreds of units. And, if the weather keeps me from applying one day, I would have to reevaluate my guesses on all of the units I have scheduled operations on for that season. That would force changes to the notifications proposed under SB 829 literally every day.

Please oppose SB 892. It is completely unrealistic.

Sincerely,

Paul Washburn

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