

March 22, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Mike Barsotti
Subject: Oppose SBs 500 and 892

Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Olsen and members of the Committee, I'm a family forest landowner from northern Linn County and a retired professional forester.

Herbicides are an important tool in establishing a forest, whether it's reforestation from a harvest or afforestation, converting a brushy area harvested years before our Forest Practices Act was established in 1971. I've assisted family forest landowner for over 30 years, and have, based on their objectives, tried many techniques to get tree seedling established. If the land is below 2,000 feet in elevation in northwest Oregon, grass and or shrubs will kill the tree seedlings without control. If the planting area is larger than 5 acres or so, herbicides become the most viable and effective tool.

I fully support the necessity for our state agencies to monitor pesticide use and punish those who don't follow the rules. **SB 500, in eliminating the time limit someone can file a complaint can make it impossible for state agencies to adequately determine if a rule has been violated.**

With regards to SB 892, it is not practicable to determine when an area will be treated.

- Weather, especially in the spring is too variable. I coordinated aerial spray projects for family forest landowners for over 10 years, and found it near impossible to let landowners know when their property would be treated. Wind is the major weather related issue that can keep a helicopter on the ground for days. Rain is the next largest factor.
- There were times when a helicopter sat on the ground for over a week waiting for a calm, dry day. And then there were times when the wind was calm all day and several scheduled days of work were completed in one day.
- When partnering a landowner does not have complete control as to when his/her land will be sprayed. There are only so many qualified pilots and helicopters available; and therefore, the only reliable way to have our smaller plantations sprays is to partner with others, a local large landowner or with a group of small landowners.

Mike Barsotti
44886 E McCully Mtn Rd.
Lyons, OR 97358
503.859.2993