



NAACP
Eugene ~ Springfield Branch
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Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Testimony from Eugene/Springfield NAACP in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 892

March 22, 2017

Good afternoon. Chair Dembrow, members of the Committee; for the record, my name is Eric Richardson. I'm writing today representing the NAACP Eugene/Springfield Branch. The NAACP was founded in 1908 and has more than 1 million members nationally. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization.

Our local Eugene/Springfield chapter has more than 250 members. In addition to activities addressing legal redress, health and education issues, our chapter also provides advocacy assistance to people throughout the state who need advice and help with personal legal and health injury issues.

We are very active in the area of climate justice and environmental protection. As people of color are often the first and most adversely impacted by the use of industrial chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides, we are committed to addressing Oregon's environmental challenges today to protect our environment for future generations.

Aerial spraying of pesticides is inherently risky. It is irrefutable that when aerial spraying is done there will be drift, and often 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.

SB 892 provides a common sense approach to help assure responsible and accountable application of pesticides. Prior notification for aerial spraying of pesticides and reporting of actual application should be standard business practices for responsible use of chemicals in the environment.



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SB 892 would use an existing database and electronic notification system to allow state agencies and neighboring property owners to access information about aerial applications, before and after spraying. Neighbors would be informed and have time to prepare, if necessary to protect themselves and animals from chemicals used adjacent to, or in the vicinity of their properties.

It would also allow the state to conduct water tests to determine if chemicals are accidentally getting into drinking water. Timely and accurate records of chemicals being applied is one step in creating a better system of accountability, to make sure there is careful application of chemicals that are potentially harmful to human health and animal welfare, and have water quality impacts.

We ask you to carefully consider and pass SB 892 out of Committee to the Senate floor for a vote.

Thank you for your support of this important protection for our population today and generations to come.

Eric Richardson
President Eugene/Springfield NAACP