

March 22, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Se. Michael Dembrow
Sen. Alan Olsen
Sen. Floyd Prozanski
Sen. Arnie Roblan

Re: SB 892 Testimony from Dr. David Eisler, 88613 Nelson Mtn. Rd., Walton, OR 97490

I am a retired anthropologist currently managing 160 acres of forest land in Walton, Oregon. I have lived in the Oregon Coast Range since the late 1970s.

In 1982 I was breaking ground for my family's first garden when the herbicide Garlon drifted from a clear cut unit being sprayed about 3/4 mile away. I called ODF and I was told in no uncertain terms that I could not possibly be smelling the herbicide because the spray technology assures that the chemicals drop directly below the helicopter. End of discussion.

So I began looking at the research on forestry chemicals. In the 1970s the U.S. Forest Service published reports on chemical drift from helicopter applications and described the complexity of factors effecting chemical transport. Over the decades state and local agencies across the country discussed methodologies of delivery to improve aerial applications in order to reduce drift through appropriate nozzle designs, flight patterns, and additives that control droplet size. If you visit websites for nozzle spray manufacturing companies, most will begin by stating that drift happens and it is important to employ the best technology and practices to reduce drift. They do not say "eliminate" but rather "reduce" drift.

The steep Coast Range mountains provide a particular risk to safe helicopter applications. Quickly changing micro weather conditions, sudden updrafts and down drafts, fog, shifts in wind velocity and direction can result in factors favorable for the movement of chemicals off target. Simply put, drift happens and it is recognized by the industry.

In 2012 we placed an air sampling monitor in the back yard of a family residence about 1/2 mile from a steep slope clear cut unit being sprayed. We recorded the presence of the principle ingredient, Imazapyr. Drift happened. It's simply a fact of atmospheric and chemical physics.

Given sets of certain conditions air born chemicals may find their way to individual homes or communities. For families living in the forested portions of this state there has always been the potential for forestry chemical trespass onto their property, into their drinking water or into their lungs. It should not be considered a risk that a landowner has to accept for living near forested areas. Giving landowners access to the information of what will be sprayed and when seems only right.

I urge you to support SB 892 for rural communities and families across the state.