

TESTIMONY OF GREG PETERSON P.E.  
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My name is Greg Peterson. I live in Corvallis. I'm a registered professional engineering with over 45 years experience with environmental remediation of nearly 1000 sites, as well as chemical handling, and water resources. I'm here today because I'm an active tree farmer owning 60 acres in West Lane County and I feel strongly about **SB 0892 and SB 0500**, which I consider serious over-reaching attempts to interfere and harass the many families that engage in private forestry.

In my 45 years as a professional engineer, I witnessed very significant changes in the way that herbicides are tested, labelled, handled, and applied. I am also a licensed herbicide applicator, and I strongly believe that existing laws, which are based on the collective experience of thousands of experts, already go well beyond the science to provide more than adequate safeguards to landowners, applicators, the general public, and the environment. Today's forest practices already provide clean water and bountiful wildlife habitat, but the very feasibility of continuing our forest ownership is being challenged by these two bills.

**SB 0500** is an attempt to allow anyone to claim as an injured party for years after an herbicide spray and it is up to the landowner to spend hard-earned funds to examine for evidence and defend against nuisance complaints.

**SB 892:** I do lots of backpack spraying, but sometimes it is just not feasible. So in the past I have done aerial spraying, but I find it ridiculous that there is now a proposal that we have to guesstimate weather conditions 30 days out with a 5 day window. That's just not practical and pretty much impossible.

Given that Oregon is famous as a rainy state, rain is unpredictable but pretty much a constant during the spring months, it should follow that regulations should take this fact into account. Farmers, ranchers, and tree farmers should not be punished.