

OREGON LEGISLATURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Honorable Chairman Witt and Committee Members:

My name is Dave Silen. I work for Holiday Tree Farms, one of the largest producers of Christmas trees in the Willamette Valley. I arrange and monitor aerial applications as a Production Manager for this company.

House Bill 3044 raises several concerns from my perspective.

This bill goes way beyond the current rigorous system in place through the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Their staff responds to adjoining landowners who have concerns about aerial applications. These inquiries are responded to quickly and are investigated fully.

Another concern with this bill is the posting of landowner and applicator addresses on the DEQ website. This creates an unnecessary additional risk for our staff and the applicator. Our concern is the potential for bodily harm and/or property damage.

I have scheduled and monitored many aerial applications over the 30 years working in the Christmas tree industry. My observation is that pilots doing these applications are highly trained and professional. They make every effort to take many factors into account and apply in the safest manner possible.

We strongly oppose HB 3044.

Thank you for your time to review this letter.

Sincerely,

Dave Silen

Holiday Tree Farms, Inc.