

March 26, 2019

Chair Witt,
Vice Chairs Gorsek & Sprenger, and
Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources

For the record, I am Susan Morgan, Natural Resources Policy Manager for the Association of Oregon Counties.

AOC represents all 36 of Oregon's Counties on many diverse issues and serves as a forum to discuss issues of importance to counties. Representing Oregon counties since 1906, the Association of Oregon Counties unites counties to advocate, communicate, and educate through information sharing and consensus development.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3044. Many counties own timber land that is managed for diverse goals: clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation and revenue generation. Revenue generated by county timber lands provides funding for law enforcement, prosecution, public and mental health, roads and recreational services for our citizens.

HB 3044 would require applications by air of pesticide or soil treatments to be reported to the Department of Environmental quality (DEQ). DEQ would be allowed to determine drift, notify adjoining property owners, and give DEQ enforcement authority over fertilizer and pesticide applications.

Oregon has a rigorous pesticide program through the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) that is respected, responsible and effective. We urge this committee to consider the comprehensiveness of the regulatory structure that is already in place. ODA has a longstanding relationship with EPA. And is the state agency that has delegated authority to enforce federal regulation. DEQ does not have that regulatory experience or expertise.

AOC urges you to vote NO on HB 3044.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Susan Morgan
Natural Resources Policy Manager
Association of Oregon Counties