

Testimony: HB 3044

House Natural Resources Committee

Chair: Brad Witt

We are small woodland owners who manage 345 acres of timber land in Lane, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Some of our land borders on industrial timberland where aerial application of herbicides is a common practice. **We oppose HB 3044 and urge you to vote against it.**

We are concerned about invasive species on our land. Our industrial neighbors keep them in check through aerial spraying. If HB 3044 were enacted into law, they could not do so as effectively. On-the-ground application is prohibitively expensive for large acreages, and, additionally, many applications need to be done in spring when the soil is wet, making ground-based equipment on the ground unfeasible without doing damage to the soil. If the capacity to control invasive species aurally is lost, Scotch broom, false broom, and blackberry will spread to our tree farms from our neighbors.

We are concerned that should HB 3044 become law, the DEQ would determine whether herbicides drifted beyond the application site without real-time, on-site investigations. HB 3044 allows the DEQ to make determination of drift by only examining paper records. It is not possible to make accurate evaluations with this limited data. Currently the Oregon Department of Agriculture has the authority to regulate pesticides in Oregon. They have the expertise to do so, and the authority to penalize misapplications. There is no reason to have two agencies fulfilling the same function. Drift is illegal in Oregon.

Finally, we are concerned about putting the names and addresses of applicators and landowners on a public web-site as called for in HB 3044. Privacy is a time-honored Oregonian value that should not be violated.

Please do not support HB 3044.

Steve and Wylde Cafferata