

I am writing in support of HB 3044. I would like to see a ban on aerial spraying, but I understand the need for more detailed information before a decision can be made on whether to ban it or not. This bill would at least provide decision makers, regulatory agencies and citizens with the facts they need to make informed decisions. If I could have access to the type of information gathered by this bill and it showed no harm was done, perhaps my fears of spraying could be put to rest.

Fact: the chemicals used by the industry are hazardous. I have heard the timber industry's argument that sharing their chemical formulas might provide information that their competitors could use against them. I don't believe this is a valid claim as they already post chemicals they are using on spray notifications (however it is not a complete list) other ingredients such as carriers and surfactants are not listed in the notifications--information like this is also important to know when making health decisions. The "inactive" ingredients can be just as harmful as the actual herbicides and there is not any monitoring of their presence in the environment. And really, what is more important: people having access to the information they need to make medical decisions or corporate profits? People's lives are in the hands of these companies that spray hundreds, sometimes thousands of acres at a time. People have a right to know the details.

I realize many people believe the chemicals used are okay—safe even. However, there is a growing amount of people waking up to the fact that these chemicals are not so good after all. A multi-million-dollar lawsuit against Monsanto, the manufacturers of Roundup—which contains glyphosate (widely used in forestry) was awarded to a person whose lymphoma was proved to be linked to the use of Roundup. Another widely used chemical in forestry, atrazine, is banned in Europe due to being a persistent water contaminant and an endocrine disruptor. Atrazine manufacturer Syngenta settled a multi-state class action lawsuit in the US for over \$100 million dollars. I believe the industry fights any type of oversight like this bill out of fear of lawsuits and honestly, rightly so. If harm is found to be done, there will be lawsuits and citizens have every right to be compensated for damages.

I understand that many trust our regulatory agencies and authority figures. There are also many people that do not and for good reason. I am sure there would be more outcry from citizens if the issues of health hazards weren't so difficult to face. People do not like to hear that certain foods are bad for them, let alone hear about chemicals. Perhaps it's human nature to avoid facing issues like this because it brings about feelings such as hopelessness, helplessness, anger, betrayal and then actually having to do something about it. It takes courage, time, energy and persistence to go against the grain and speak up when no one wants to hear it. Additionally, barriers are erected at every turn, so it's no wonder people feel powerless.

The other factor is money. Money drives cover-ups, weak regulations, the suppression of studies that show evidence of harm, etc. The recent investigation by the Oregonian called "Polluted by Money" documents just how much the regulatory and legislative system is broken and cannot be trusted.

My personal experience is one shared by many. I have an increased sensitivity to chemicals, more than the average person. I see it like a "canary in the mine". While others may not get sick immediately after exposure, they are still being affected yet may not develop symptoms for many years. That is another thing that makes this so difficult but fortunately the medical community is catching onto how chemicals do affect people. Environmental illness/multiple chemical sensitivity is a recognized diagnosis. I live in fear every summer when spraying starts. I can be debilitated for days by something as simple as perfume (which contains many chemicals such as acetone, ethanol, benzaldehyde, formaldehyde,

limonene, methylene chloride, camphor, ethyl acetate, linalool and benzyl alcohol). So, imagine watching a helicopter spraying several tons of chemicals practically in my backyard—it's terrifying.

I went to the public hearing for this bill and I wasn't surprised by how it went but I still felt anger and hurt. I listened to people from the timber industry sitting around me sighing and snickering, acting like people's concerns such as mine are nuisances and nonsense.

I believe this bill to be a small gesture to the public. We the people just want the truth. This bill will increase transparency as well as accountability. Transparency begins the process of building trust. I am thankful for Rep Wilde for introducing this bill and I urge the committee to vote yes.

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