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Senator Dembrow and members
of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
April 1, 2019

Dear Sen. Dembrow and Committee Members:

I write to you today on behalf of the Board of Directors and the concerned and active membership of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc. (UW). UW is a 501 (c) (3), 99.9% all-volunteer restoration, conservation, education, outreach non profit, with offices in Roseburg, Oregon. Umpqua Watersheds strongly supports swift passage and timely enactment of Senate Bills 931 and 926.

UW's principal geographic areas of concern are the Umpqua, Coquille, Coos, Sixes and other regional river basins and their attendant uplands. As you know, the public lands on these watersheds are very often sited within the infamous and most unfortunate "checkerboard" of alternating ownerships. This is true on both the Oregon Coast Range as well as on the West Slope of the Cascade Range. We volunteer many hours of our precious time and a good deal of personal and organizational energy in trying to influence public forestland management in a more environmentally sound direction. UW has long insisted to the BLM and USFS that the suite of environmental harms imposed upon the public lands they administer in trust for all of the people of the nation, by the clear cut, monoculture fiber farm, aerially sprayed herbicide paradigm, currently condoned by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA), is far out of sync with the urgent conservation and/or restoration needs of our beleaguered watersheds and the imperiled wildlife they support. We have asked these agencies to speak up on behalf of the denizens of these lands, human and otherwise. Sadly, most often, they demur. We hope for a better result from you and the members of this committee, the legislature and our governor.

And, as you are also doubtless aware, many Oregon citizens, indeed, many UW members, are close neighbors to the private industrial timberlands operating under aegis of the OFPA. We can see no legitimate reason why ODF's excellent FERNS web site

should not be enhanced to reflect the concerns of Oregon citizens and the groups like UW that strive to protect their stake in our natural environment. We fully endorse the tightening of the notification of forest activities, including the aerial application of potentially toxic chemicals into our air and watersheds. (We are aware that some timberland ownerships will mix a number of herbicide/pesticides, along with their ancillary chemicals into one tank and let them fly. Such untested witches brews may include such known toxics as Atrazine and 2-4-D!) We citizens deserve a useful and timely forewarning. A one year window is unacceptable and of small value, where health and safety are concerned. A 24 to 48 hour notification is much needed.

Likewise, we deserve to know what substances and in what potentially harmful, synergistic combinations have actually been broadcast near our homes, waterways, schools and the precious public lands on which we recreate, and which sustain the wildlife, flora and fauna, we treasure.

We are confident that the highly qualified personnel who have created and who maintain the FERNS web site are more than capable of implementing these common sense improvements without undue difficulty or significant public expense. UW fully supports SB 931!

In much the same vein, UW strongly supports passage and enactment of SB 926. It is long past the time when our state forestlands joined with those federal forestlands managed by the BLM, USFS etc. in banning the aerial application of herbicides/pesticides, as they are used to promote conifer growth.

Sincerely,

Joseph Patrick Quinn
Volunteer Conservation Chair,