

Watts Remy

From: Sequoyah Walkingfeather <sequoyahwalkingfeather@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 5:01 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Please Support SB931 and SB926

Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee,

My name is Sequoyah Walkingfeather and I am 41 years old. It's been 6 months since I was poisoned by an aerial pesticide spraying incident in Deadwood, Oregon, on September 14, 2018. I am still very sick. I am suffering from daily seizures and heavy fatigue/exhaustion, and I have had to cut back on the kind of work I can do and take time off from work. I have no other means to support myself. If I had been properly notified in advance by Weyerhaeuser, I could have left for a few days while the spraying was taking place. But no notifications were given. No one knew until the day of.

On September 14th, it was very windy. So I was shocked to hear a low approaching helicopter at 1pm. When I went outside to investigate, I saw a helicopter spraying the adjacent clear cut that was next to the land where I lived. I could already smell chemicals. I left for a few hours but when I returned home, my entire living space was filled with what smelled like Roundup and other chemicals. My eyes and nose started burning, I started coughing and wheezing. An hour in, I was experiencing stabbing pains all over my torso and down both arms. I had uncontrollable muscle twitches and tremors in my hands, arms, fingers and face. I had recently ended a normal menstrual cycle a week prior but now felt horrible cramping. I felt weak, it was hard to talk and think. My face went numb. The torso pain became steady and didn't stop. Two days in, I started bleeding and cramping the worst I had ever experienced in my life. I bled through 3 layers of clothing and the cramping felt like my uterus was being ripped apart. For three weeks, I didn't sleep well and thought I had the flu. The numbness, tingling and pain radiated down to my legs. I could barely walk for two weeks. I had a sore throat, breathing problems, a thick white mucus was constantly being expelled from my lungs and I felt close to death twice. I

bled the heaviest of my life for 24 days straight and I haven't had a normal period since.

I reported the incident to the 211 hot line and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. They sent out a steward two weeks later who didn't find any 'evidence' of a chemical trespass. I got a hold of the spray report and the main ingredients used were Imazapyr, which is designed to kill everything; and Glyphosate, which is currently the subject of several multi million dollar lawsuits and has been proven to cause many types of cancer. The FERN notification system DOES NOT WORK!! I was in the system and it never notified me of the Dog Mountain/Nelson Mountain spraying. In fact, when I moved from my Nelson Mountain location to another part of Deadwood in December, Weyerhaeuser was spraying the clear cut areas again, and myself and 3 friends were affected. Aerial spraying of chemicals is not safe and causes these harmful chemicals to be released into the air to fly around freely. They do not stay on the ground!!

Since the September spraying incident, my life has been turned upside down. I've had to change how much work I can do, and what kind of work I can do. I have to rest more, I am weaker and I fatigue quicker than normal. I still have the stabbing excruciating pains in my body that come on suddenly without warning. My digestion is messed up. I have issues with swallowing. I suffer from disorientation and confusion, dizziness and feeling lightheaded. And I am dealing with various kinds of seizures and an epilepsy diagnosis. No justice has taken place and Weyerhaeuser has not been held accountable for their actions and for making me sick.

Aerial pesticide applications hurt everyone, including the animals who live here and the forest. It is a huge human rights/nature rights violation to not notify the public of exactly when aerial sprays are taking place. Ground applications are more effective and do not harm the public like aerial sprays do. We have to ban this practice in this country before it's too late. And the logging companies need to be held accountable for making people sick.

I fully support SB931 and SB926.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

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