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To: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter

Date: April 2, 2019

RE: Senate Bill 926

Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of Senate Bill 926.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect public health and wildlife in Oregon, the Sierra Club believes it is long past time to end the practice of aerial spraying of pesticides on state lands. Such a practice has not been allowed on federal lands for many years, and Oregon should now follow federal agencies' lead and ban aerial spraying for state lands as well.

As you know, state-owned lands in Oregon are important sources of drinking water for many communities, homes, and schools. In addition, Oregonians rely on their public lands for hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting. And wildlife and aquatic species also depend on state lands for important habitat areas. The aerial spraying of pesticides puts all of these critical uses at risk and we need to end the practice in Oregon.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club supports Senate Bill 926 and we urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please let me know if I may be of any further assistance to the committee.