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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 931

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 931.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect public health in Oregon, the Sierra Club believes that notification for the aerial spraying of pesticides is critical. As you know, SB 931 would establish requirements for sending notifications to the Oregon Department of Forestry by an operator, timber owner, or landowner proposing a forest operation involving aerial application of pesticides on non-federal forestland. Current rules allow up to a one-year window of when aerial spraying *might* occur near homes and properties, but SB931 would impose a 24-48 hour notice so that adjoining landowners and water users could necessary precautions to protect themselves against any possible harms.

The Sierra Club believes that SB 931 is a common-sense measure that calls for landowners and corporations to be better neighbors by providing those important notifications. It would also require that when aerial spraying is done, those pesticide users would need to report afterwards what chemicals were actually sprayed. Industry and the Oregon Department of Forestry already have the technology to provide that sort of transparency while also protecting the privacy and any "trade secrets of their operations.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club supports Senate Bill 931 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.