

Watts Remy

From: Carol Valentine <valentine@cavenet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 12:46 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Cc: Sen Baertschiger
Subject: Support SB 931 and SB 936

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee,

I am asking you to support two common sense measures to protect the health of rural Oregonians:

SB 931 is designed to use today's technology for sharing accurate and timely information about upcoming pesticide sprays in private and state forests. With this bill, neighbors can receive timely 24-28 notification by email before an impending aerial or ground herbicide spray and will be informed about the type of method: aerial or ground. In addition, state regulators can collect accurate data on the FERNS website within 5 days of the spray operation regarding types and amounts of chemicals sprayed. Benefits of Senate Bill 931:

As a resident of Selma with property among parcels of both public and private timberland, I am among the large number of rural Oregonians asking that we have a chance to make sure our children and pets are indoors, our farm animals are inside the barn, chicken coop or bee box, and our windows are closed before pesticide applications nearby.

People like me who get our drinking or irrigation water from streams and springs on industrial timber land are asking for a chance to turn off our intake for 48 hours to avoid pesticides drifting into our water supply. We are asking for the opportunity to make sure workers are not out in the field on the day of an aerial spray.

Oregon's timber companies use standard operating procedures to help them prepare for aerial herbicide sprays— their own Guideline documents demonstrate that they know where, when and what they will spray at least 2 weeks prior to spraying herbicides. It is entirely possible for them to notify neighbors 24-48 hours in advance of a spray. Notification should be required by statute, *not* on a voluntary, case-by-case basis, practiced at the whim of each timber owner.

SB 926 is a long-overdue measure to protect water sources and health for humans and wildlife within and near state forestlands. While aerial sprays were banned in federal forests more than thirty years ago, the public is still at grave risk when it comes to Oregon's forested lands. Aerial sprays can drift for miles, harming those who are simply outdoors doing everyday activities.

In the Tillamook State Forest, the Oregon Department of Forestry has recently aerially sprayed herbicides over 10,300 acres. They have chosen aerial herbicide spraying over ground sprays in 70% of their herbicide operations. A significant number of these aerial herbicide sprays were carried out in Protected Drinking Watersheds designated by other state agencies!

Our public state forests are the places Oregonians come to camp, hike, picnic and fish. These public forests are also the source of drinking water for many Oregon towns and communities. We must end aerial spraying on our state forests!

Thank you for your consideration.

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