



## STARKER FORESTS, INC.

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B. Bond Starker, Chair of the Board

March 25, 2019

Chair Witt and House Committee on Natural Resources,

Starker Forests, Inc., forestland owner and manager since 1936, opposes HB 3044.

This bill is duplicative and unnecessary. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, not DEQ, has designated authority to regulate pesticides in Oregon. ODA has the expertise in pesticides, investigatory staff and civil penalty to regulate pesticides in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Agriculture already has established protocols and follows a strict and robust investigatory framework for receiving and investigating complaints about pesticide drift, which is illegal, and penalizes applicators who break the law.

HB 3044 puts applicators and landowners at risk of harassment and vandalism by requiring DEQ to put the details of the application on a public website, including specific property locations, the name of the applicator and the name and address of the operator or company.

Pesticide Use Reporting should be funded and conducted under ORS 634.048. In 1999, the Oregon Legislature required all pesticide users to report their pesticide use to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Both natural resources and environmental groups supported this landmark legislation. In 2009, the Legislature defunded the program, curtailing an important regulatory tool key to understanding the footprint of pesticide use in our state.

We urge you to oppose HB 3044.

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