

1 April 2019

To the State of Oregon Senate

senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Public Testimony on Senate Bill Number: [SB 931](#)

UPDATE OREGON'S FOREST ACTIVITY ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (FERNS)

I am a semi-retired civil engineer with a lifetime's experience in river (basin) management and restoration. As a pioneer in the production of watershed plans, I'm very aware of the dangers inherent in spreading poisons on the land, whether for farm and forest, or municipal weed management.

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry's online forest activities notification system needs improvement.

This easy-to-use system can help rural residents protect themselves from aerial herbicide sprays on private industrial timber plantations. These necessary updates will include:

- Notify residents 48 hours prior to herbicide sprays
- Distinguish between aerial and ground sprays
- Report types and amounts of pesticides used to the state regulators.
- Keep forestry spray records for 7 years (instead of 3 years)

Please vote to support this small but necessary step for Oregon to re-evaluate the impacts of pesticide use on drinking water and wildlife, human health. In a democracy like Oregon, the Public has the right to be informed about chemical exposures, and to cease these practices.

I'm writing to provide public testimony in support of SB 931. Thank you for voting to support this bill.

John Lovel Gardiner MBE PhD, PE
PO Box 2451
Cave Junction Oregon 97523