

Date: April 1, 2019

TO: Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

RE: SB 931

Chair Michael Dembrow and members of the Committee,

My name is Mike Barsotti. I am a family forest landowner, a forester, and current president of Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). We are opposed to SB 931 as it creates additional demands on landowners and the Oregon Department of Forestry, is nearly impossible to comply with, and adds little to the proper use of pesticides on forest land.

A more effective approach to monitoring pesticide use in Oregon would be to increase funding for state programs such as the Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Analytical and Response Center so that it can quickly respond to citizens' complaints, and for the Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS), created in 1999 but defunded in 2007.

As a forester working with family forest landowner during the late 1970s and 80s, I coordinated aerial herbicide projects in Linn and Marion Counties. It is near impossible to know when an aerial spray project would be completed. Weather determines when it is safe to spray. There were times when the applicator was grounded for a week, and other times when the weather was so favorable that what was expected to take a week to complete was completed in two days.

While the use of pesticides is a concern to some members of the public, there have been no violations related to aerial pesticide operations on forestland for the past three years. Also, the 2008 PURS report showed that forestry used is only 4.2% of all pesticides used in Oregon; a minor player in the use of pesticides in Oregon.

It seems that this bill is a solution for a problem that does not exist. Aerial pesticide projects are not drifting chemicals on their neighbors' property. Landowners are controlling invasive species and other vegetation that threatens landowners' responsibility to reforest their lands.

This bill is unnecessary and is next to impossible to comply with.