

Watts Remy

From: Debbie Lukas <sisqdeb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 11:17 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: testimony for SB 926

Regarding Senate Bill Number: SB 926
FORESTRY PESTICIDE PROJECT

Dear State Senators,

I'm writing to provide public testimony in support of SB 926. Please vote to support this bill to prohibit aerial herbicide spraying on state-owned forest lands. Oregon law allows helicopters to spray dangerous herbicides on many thousands of acres of state forests. These forests provide essential drinking water to downstream communities and to native wildlife.

I am an organic farmer in the Illinois Valley of southern Oregon. The valley is surrounded by public lands, including some managed by the state. I was living near a timber sale that was sprayed with 2, 4-D and Garlon back in the late 1980s. We were supposed to be notified prior to the spraying but were not. Our water source was contaminated, and we may have been exposed to drift. My son and I were quite sick and couldn't get out of bed for almost a week. I developed growths that had to be removed. My liver is still compromised, and I need to lead a "clean" life. This kind of poisoning is harmful to humans and other creatures that cannot choose to not drink the water.

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.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lukas
PO Box 2093
Cave Junction, OR 97523
sisqdeb@gmail.com