

Watts Remy

From: Steve Dear <dearstevedear@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 12:55 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Cc: Sen Prozanski; Rep Holvey
Subject: We Were Sprayed and We Support SB 931 and SB 926

PLEASE ENTER THIS INTO THE RECORD

To: OR Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee,

As rural Oregonians, my family and I ask you to please pass SB 926 and ban aerial herbicide sprays in state forests and pass SB 931 to modernize the Oregon Forest Electronic Notification System.

The helicopter swung down and the pilot released the spray in mid-October. A mix of aminopyralid, metsulfuron methyl, glyphosate, imazapyr, sulfometuron methyl, triclopyr with ester, Crop Oil Concentrate and MSO Concentrate covered 144 acres just a few hundred yards down from our house on Warthen Hill in Elmira.

The list of health and environmental risks from these toxins is too long for this letter. Think Roundup. Think breast cancer, brain cancer, and neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, autism, ALS, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, all of which can be caused by glyphosate exposure alone. Liver disease, kidney disease, respiratory problems, reproductive issues and birth defects have also been associated with exposure to this toxic herbicide. Think increased prevalence of ADHD in farming communities because of disrupted thyroid hormones. Think digestive issues such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, celiac disease and leaky gut syndrome. Think toxins entering the food chain through manure, with long-lasting residues. Think irreversible eye damage. Think drift from these herbicides causing widespread crop damage totaling millions of dollars. Think of the deaths of our neighbors due to spraying.

And we were not told when this poison would be sprayed on our community!

It's hard to exaggerate the risks of the herbicides sprayed over thousands of acres of land just in Lane County every month. Since sprayed herbicides can drift for up to four miles, arguably all of Elmira was susceptible to being coated from this one spraying, including the parks and beaches at Fern Ridge Lake – and the waters of the lake itself, and the Long Tom River which flows through the lake.

MY FAMILY AND I DO NOT WANT OUR STATE FORESTS SPRAYED LIKE OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SPRAYED. PASS SB 926.

WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED IN A MINIMALLY FAIR AND PROPER MANNER THAT SPRAYING WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. PASS SB 931.

The aerial spraying of herbicides, though unnecessary and of such a clear and present danger to human and animal life, persists because of the historical and structural power of the timber

industry and its Wall Street investors in Lane County – and Salem. So these bills do not go far enough. But if spraying is allowed at all, people need to be notified, and our state forests – the people’s land – and the people who camp, fish, and recreate on that land should never be sprayed again.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dear

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