

HB 2409: Support
April 27, 2021

Dear Committee:

My name is Mary Closson. I'm a resident of the Villebois neighborhood in Wilsonville, and an advocate for removing toxins from our environment to protect the health of our fellow neighbors and surrounding wildlife.

In collaboration with fellow members of my neighborhood, including Representative Courtney Neron, we have tried to raise awareness about the dangers of certain pesticide products and encourage alternative options.

One of the issues we identified in our neighborhood is the issue of pesticide sprays on our properties. While some would like to opt-out of these sprays, the process for doing so can be a significant and very unreasonable barrier that prevents homeowners from taking that option.

I'd like to read part of a written testimony submitted by Lauren Dixon, another resident of the Villebois neighborhood, who has dealt with this problem first hand.

Lauren writes, "I had to get a medical waiver. Previous rules for Villebois gave us an opt out but they changed the rules and said we'd need a medical waiver. The landscapers were complaining it would be hard to remember who was opting in or out. We actually hired an attorney to find out how we could not be sprayed and not give them a waiver, which is none of their business. We were told we had no recourse, and it would cost a lot of money if we didn't get others to join us. So I gave them a doctor's waiver to protect myself."

HOA members should not face these barriers when requesting to opt their property out of a pesticide spray.

Many members may not have the resources or the time to get a doctor's note in advance of a planned spray on their property, or they may not be able to keep up with when these sprays are being planned. These constraints make it difficult to make plans to prevent children or pets from being exposed to dangerous chemicals.

I urge your support for HB 2409. Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted by:
Mary Closson
Wilsonville, Oregon