

2008-4-28 BOF testimony

John Sundquist
31139 Lanes Turn Rd
Coburg, OR 97408
541-683-1905

To: Dan Postrel, dan.postrel@state.or.us,

Dan, please take this e-mail testimony as my public comments before the Board of Forestry for their April 29, 2008 meeting.

Mr Chair, members of the Board,

I'm very encouraged you are meeting to discuss sustainability in general and pesticides in particular. I have interests in timberlands in the Willamette and North Umpqua drainages, and serve on the Lane County Vegetation Management Advisory Committee and on the Oregon Senate's Work Group on Children's Health and Pesticides.

In recent BOF testimonies, I have tried to point out the enormous gaps between scientific knowledge and recommended forest practices. The first gap starts with the conclusive evidence that pesticides are poisons that harm people, especially children, as well as wildlife and the environment. Many citizens suffer from induced chemical sensitivity, which is often caused by earlier exposures to poisons and toxins. Yet huge quantities of unnecessary pesticides are routinely applied. The governor's task force on toxics reduction, headed by Gail Shibley, is formed to address this gap in health protection.

In Oregon forests under Chemical Dependent Short Rotation (CDSR) management, 800,000 acres of private forestland were sprayed in 2006, with 320,000 acres poisoned in Douglas County. A half-million pounds of active ingredients were dumped by Weyerhaeuser alone into the McKenzie watershed. Wholesale poisoning is chosen over putting local people to work doing manual release. Why?

- pesticide use is not only legal, it is encouraged and subsidized by the state and federal governments,
- forest and farm industrial pesticide use is almost liability free,
- for state regulators, runoff and drift are assumed not to occur
- state laws deny local governments the right to protect their citizens from poisoning, or of even tracking the amount of poison used locally.

Any "testing" for safety is done by labs hired by the manufacturers, and only the active ingredients in the product are minimally screened. Tank mixes are routine, combining formulations, inerts, adjuvants, odor-masking agents, and other

chemicals. These mixes are blended to increase lethality from their synergistic effects, yet these mixes are not tested for human or environmental safety.

Therefore, in order to protect childrens health, clean air and water, and to ensure a future of good jobs, secure economy and great fishing, I ask the Board of Forestry to—

- 1-- support legislation to ensure that the protection of human and environmental health is the primary and explicit goal of all resource regulating agencies.
- 2--support transfer of regulation of pesticides from the department of agriculture (ODA) to the department of Health and Human Services,
- 3--enact 1/2 mile buffer zones protecting schools and sensitive areas from pesticide drift from forestry.
- 4--end use immediately of worst poisons
- 5--support budget priorities establishing adequate testing and monitoring programs.
- 6--develop pilot projects and budget option packages that support the governor's efforts at health protection and toxics reduction,
- 7--develop verifiable accounting of human and environmental health costs of pesticides in forestry use, applied to all analysis of risk, cost and benefit.
- 8--support the repeal of the liability exclusions of the Right to Farm and Right to Forest laws,
- 9-- support the repeal of the Pre-emption laws,
- 10--at the federal level, support repeal of the EPA regulations that allows the sales commission on the poisons to be considered as the economic benefit for using the poisons.

Another key gap, easier to resolve, perhaps in the next couple days, starts with the official recommendation to machine pile and burn slash. This practice, as promoted in Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual --

- turns all stored carbon into air pollution
- leads to the "need" for fertilizer and herbicides because it
- burns off nitrogen and other plant nutrients stored in slash
- eliminates mulching effects of slash, including moisture retention, weed suppression, and soil foodweb habitat protection.
- opens the soil surface to noxious and invasive infestation.
- and costs \$250+/acre, compared to increased reforestation costs of units that aren't piled and burned of \$70-100/acre.

As a first step towards sustainability, I urge the board to review and end the routine practice of slashburning as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on these matters of critical importance.

John Sundquist

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** People of all ages throughout the world have developed illnesses from Toxic Injury, also referred to as Chemically Induced Illness. Intolerance to low-level exposure may be referred to as Chemical Sensitivity and/or Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. The intolerance is now known to be caused by induced changes in brain biochemistry called neural sensitization; and
- WHEREAS:** Toxic Chemical Injury is often characterized by heightened sensitivity to very small amounts of air pollution, petrochemicals and other toxins found in our everyday products and environment either from short-term or chronic exposure and can start at any age; and
- WHEREAS:** Toxic Injury may include multiple, often disabling, illnesses affecting the respiratory, central nervous system (brain), immune, musculoskeletal, porphyrin, energy metabolism, and endocrine systems and can be life threatening; and
- WHEREAS:** Toxic Injury is a chronic debilitating condition for which there is no known cure, causing serious financial, employment, learning, housing, health, social and other consequences; and
- WHEREAS:** The prevalence of these illnesses and the lack of knowledge and qualified doctors warrant further education in this field for medical, health care, and emergency personnel, architects, HVAC and building maintenance and cleaning personnel, as well as the general public; and
- WHEREAS:** Those suffering with Toxic Injury deserve the same rights, acknowledgement, respect, support and resources allotted to other illnesses and disabilities.

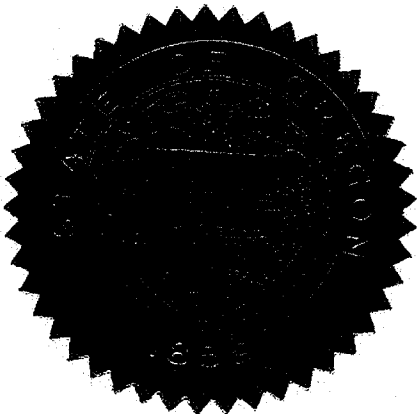
NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **May 2007** to

TOXIC INJURY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be hereunto set, Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, April 23, 2007.



Theodore R. Kulongoski
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

R. U. H. I.