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To: Oregon Board of Forestry
Re: Public Comment Period
April 29, 2008

To the Members of the Oregon Board of Forestry:

I appreciate that on your agenda you state that "the Oregon Board of Forestry places great value on information received from the public," and that one of your agenda items is "Developing Policies to Ensure Sustainable Forests." I am here today to request that you consider this when hearing the public testimony today: the health, well-being, and sustainability of our Oregon forests **and** its citizens.

What does sustainable mean? The dictionary defines it as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Another definition, from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida, states that it "generally refers to land management practices that provide goods and services from an ecosystem without degradation of the site quality, and without a decline in the yield of goods and services over time." An example given is a "continuously maintained forest where mature trees are harvested and new trees are replanted to filter pollutants and provide continued resources and products for future generations."

Using pesticides is NOT a sustainable practice; according to all the definitions of the word. Study after study shows that the risks outweigh the benefits: cancer, autism, spontaneous abortions, asthma, are all linked to pesticide exposure in research studies. Even low doses over time accumulate, especially in the bodies of our future citizens, the children. This is becoming a public health emergency. We need new direction and leadership from the Oregon Board of Forestry; the old ways will not meet the definition of sustainable.

I beg you, as a mother and a grandmother, to protect our future generations by ending this harmful practice. There are natural and organic methods for forestry, just as there are for farming. EPA restricted herbicides or those known to be carcinogens, mutagens, or endocrine disruptors should NOT be used in our forests. The least that could be done is to establish a buffer zone of at least ½ mile around all schools so that our children are not directly exposed to pesticide drift, which is what happens at many of our rural schools.

Thank you for listening to our public comments. I sincerely hope that you will take our concerns to heart.

Robin Winfree

