



August 19, 2019

Dear Commissioners

I want to talk about Non-Traditional Pesticides Use In Oregon

I represent a company here in Lane County that has been working with pesticides since 1896 to build and protect your infrastructure and homes. Very few people know and understand that pesticides are used to preserve wood to ensure the sustainability of our forests and the safety of our transportation, electrical, agricultural, recreational and building infrastructure.

Preservatives are key to ensuring that our naturally renewable wood products last long enough for a new tree to grow big enough to replace it. That is true for utility poles, to rail ties, from marine pilings to decks, from house sill plates to farm fences and park bridges. The highest value trees in Oregon forests are sold for utility poles, to ensure a reliable electricity grid. The lowest commercially thinned trees are also preserved as fence posts for all our agriculture industries. If that is not enough, the first board installed on every house is preserved wood, as it protects the rest of the wood from rot, decay and insects. We do that all right here and it is important that you know how as much as you now know why.

My company is part a member of Western Wood Preservers Institute (WWPI), which is a non-profit trade association founded in Oregon in 1953. WWPI represents 16 facilities and some 356 employees in the state of Oregon along with industry members from the other western states. Membership includes, wood manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, wood preservers, environmental consultants, equipment providers, inspections companies and product distributors. WWPI serves the interests of the wood preserving industry in so that renewable resources, exposed to the elements, can maintain favorable use in aquatic, building, commercial and utility industries.

To be approved for use, all wood preservatives must, in the words of the EPA, quote "show that they can be used without causing unreasonable adverse effects to human health or the environment." Wood is protected from decay, rot, mold, and wood eating insects by putting the wood into a closed cylinder where the preservative is pressurized into the wood, then excess preservative is vacuumed out leaving the wood sterilized. The preservative is maintained in controlled storage tanks and any drippage is collected so the preserved wood industry has zero pollinator impacts.

It is important for the wood preservation industry to have options as to which preservative to use and on which commodities on a case by case basis. For example, in some site-specific applications there is a need to avoid heavy metals that could impact sensitive aquatic environments, such as copper impacts on fish. PTI or DCOI would be among those alternatives that ensure that the preserved wood used is both sustainable and safe.

We need the safety of preservatives. They protect our wood infrastructure, from rail ties and utility poles to guardrails along the freeway and pilings at ports. In fact, the very first board installed in every house, the sill plate, is preserved wood. It protects the rest of the lumber and thus protects the house from decay, insects and rot. The state even uses Imidacloprid in a number of applications including bridge handrails to protect the wood and provide a disinfected surface to touch.

Through preservative treating, we add to sustainability by making wood last for decades, far beyond the time it takes to grow a new tree to supply our future needs. This is the essence of sustainability and no other material offers this benefit. In its current form, the bill is counterproductive toward its intended goal of environmental stewardship.

TWO ISSUES

1) Regarding use of harmful aerial spraying in Lane County:

Although it may currently be true that the citizens of Lane County have no control over the harmful use of pesticides in Lane County to control weed growth in agriculture and forestry, many would argue it is time to take back control of our lands and the health of our communities.

Community Rights of Lane County **urges you to schedule a joint work session concerning the referral of both the Aerial Spray Ban and the Right of Local Community Self-Government ordinances to the 2020 ballot.**

Over 15,000 signatures were collected for the petitions for these ordinances, meeting the signature requirements for having these ordinance put on the ballot. The only way to re-establish local control over the health of our citizens and our land is through the court system. Let us begin that process to bring to everyone's attention the importance of these issues.

2) Regarding the adoption of a Climate Action Plan

There are many reasons to adopt a **Lane County Climate Action Plan**. Many of the issues involved in responding to climate change can be better managed on a regional level, whether through better land management, increasing greater resilience through increased local food production or managing social-economic policies to foster greater use of renewables and reusables and reduction of waste in a way that fosters equity and recognizes more justice-oriented environmental policies. For instance, in the book *Drawdown*, edited by Paul Hawken a strong argument is made for shifting mostly to plant-rich diets, listed as the 4th most important solution for combating climate change. Their research estimates that if 50% of the world's population restricted their diet to 2500 calories a day, and reduced meat consumption overall, at least 26.7 gigatons of emissions could be avoided.

A significant part of the solution to climate change relates to land management and food production. 23rd on the list of adaptive strategies described in the book *Drawdown*, is Farmland Restoration. #3 is Reduced Food Waste; #28 is Multistrata Agroforestry. Who are our resources for creating a plan to increase the health of our forests while producing more food regionally? 9th on the list is Silvopasture, the integration of trees and pasture into a single system for raising cattle, sheep, deer or ducks. #11 on the list of practices that could restore carbon and reduce emissions is Renerative Agriculture, which can be used to restore degraded land and regenerate the health of soil by restoring its carbon content and improving plant health, nutrition and productivity. These practices include in part no tillage, diverse cover crops, in-farm fertility, no pesticides or synthetic fertilizers and multiple crop rotations, which can be augmented with managed grazing.

With the adoption of a Climate Action Plan, the County would be in a position to assemble a commission of experts on land use, food systems, restorative justice, innovative communication platforms and legal mechanisms, making use of ideas like land trusts, rural organizing groups, cooperative farming and collaborative enterprise techniques. The commission might include

as well as increasing use of renewable energy and waste reduction in rural areas and on farms.

anthropologists and sociologists from the University of Oregon and food system experts and growers already familiar with local agriculture issues as well as planners and realtors knowledgeable about innovative land use agreements and university experts in sustainable agriculture. Among their tasks would be to devise methods for making food production a central goal for replacing the commodities currently often grown industrially and shipped around as ingredients for processed foods. One goal would be to experiment with ways to grow enough of a single product across cooperative farms to be cost effective and amenable to the requirements of food distribution systems while also accommodating the biodiversity requirements of regenerative agriculture. Another goal would be to integrate farm workers into local ^{from} community and economic structures with adequate housing for all, perhaps using collaborative enterprise models. Another goal would be to consider how Oregon's lauded land use policies might be adjusted to accommodate different agricultural models.

Lane County, maybe in concert with other Oregon counties, could become a model for improving regional resiliency by demonstrating how to promote regenerative agriculture while making more locally grown food available in our grocery stores and also providing a platform for producing the organic oils and grains now grown mainly industrially in other parts of the world that go into packaged foods.

Submitted by
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Ranking of Solutions

Based on the total amount of greenhouse gases they can potentially avoid or remove from the atmosphere, the rankings are global. The relative importance of one solution may differ depending on geography, economic conditions, or sector
p. xiv (Downward)

Lane County Commissioners
Harris Hall, Eugene
County Climate Action Plan (CAP) Input Request

Tuesday August 20th, 2019

Presenter:

Rouanna Garden
Interfaith Earthkeeper
Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene

I'm decided to speak again about community cooling/warming buildings throughout Lane County, because I woke to smoke from the Mt. Pisgah Fire early Monday morning blanketing Springfield. These buildings need more than energy independence during emergencies.

- 1) They need an available water supply and I don't mean bottled water. A ground sourced water supply that's accessible with a hand pump and either an electric or wind powered system.
- 2) There is a need to have supplies of N95 Masks for everyone that must go outside during smoke events, as well as an easily cleanable air ~~cleaning~~ ^{filtration} system for inside the buildings.
- 3) On a lighter side, the buildings could store a supply of solar ovens to cook food and heat water, on sunny days.
- 4) The buildings chosen to be Community Emergency Centers need to be seismically upgraded to be prepared.

Thank you for your interest in Community Climate Solutions in Lane County, and again for asking people of faith to speak.



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