

February 16, 2011

To: Oregon Environmental Commission
Fr: Liz VanLeeuwen, 27070 Irish Bend Lp., Halsey, OR 97348
Re: Proposed DEQ's Toxics Reduction Rulemaking

Dear Commissioners:

I have been involved with the issues relating to water most of my life, and most specifically for the last 54 years since moving to my husband's family farm here along the Willamette River. Currently I am elected to, and serve as the chairperson, of Linn County Soil & Conservation District Board (LSWCD). About 50 years ago, I volunteered with Linn and Oregon Farm Bureau on water related issues. I served for 18 years in the Oregon Legislature. In 1993, I carried SB 1010 on the House floor, the bill which gave non-point water quality over-site to the Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). If I remember correctly, the vote was unanimous. Now our Soil & Water Conservation District's staffs work with ODA in following up non-point water quality complaints. Our Linn district and ODA have been successful in getting compliance on all the reported problems since our area water quality plan was established a number of years ago. I think this is pretty true statewide.

We all want clean water. I am frustrated that EPA/DEQ appear to be ignoring the naturally occurring chemicals in the water and air; and, without scientific evidence, are pointing the finger at commercial natural resource production. In the Calapooia River in our area, more consistent research has been done on water quality than most anywhere in the nation according to the federal Agriculture Research Service located in Corvallis. This water which courses all the way through forestry and agriculture lands has very low adverse chemicals. I trust you have that information?


In our agricultural area, more and more of our growers are using grass filter strips and grassed field drainage ditches to reduce soil erosion and chemical movement into waterways. Aren't there some DEQ grants helping with some of this?

Everything is chemical. One aspirin may save my life; but, if I took the whole bottle, the opposite would probably be true. The dose-ratio is important in most everything. That is one reason we need to store more of our winter excess rain and snow so there is more volume available in the late summer and fall.

Please recognize that things are improving and working well with the regulations and enforcement now in place under the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture. Wouldn't a change in agency over-site be counter productive and costly?

I welcome you to come and see what we are doing.

Most sincerely,


Liz VanLeeuwen

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