

DEQ

MAR 07 2011

Water Quality 3/2/11

Dear Ms. Matzke:

I am writing you this letter in order to urge the Oregon DEQ to adopt stricter water quality standards to protect the health of Oregonians, as well as the health of our environment. The DEQ should especially adopt toxic standards for the newer pesticides that are currently in heavy use throughout the state. Please include glyphosphate; atrazine; 2,4-D; triclopyr and all of the many dangerous carcinogenic pesticides in the new standards. The Oregon Highway Dept., BLM and the private timber companies spray hundreds of thousands of acres of these chemicals along roads and on clearcuts in places that are directly adjacent to schools and residential areas. The spray can drift for miles and can seep into our water supply, with direct threats to human health, especially children.

It has been known for over thirty-five years that herbicides such as 2,4-D cause cancer, yet these chemicals are routinely sprayed from helicopters by the timber companies near schools and homes, endangering the health of Oregonians. Atrazine is so toxic and carcinogenic that its use has been banned by the European Union, yet it still one of the most popular chemicals in use in our state. Please adopt stricter standards by banning the use of these chemicals, or at the

very least, put stricter regulations in place that would prevent public agencies or private companies from aerial spraying of pesticides near residential areas or schools. Also, please adopt stricter standards for Oregonians who eat fish up to a rate of 175 grams of fish per day.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Riley