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THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION 09-4-8-16) IN THE MATTER OF PESTICIDE-
) USE REDUCTION ON STATE
) HIGHWAYS IN LANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the 2008 Oregon Transportation Commission, which oversees the Oregon Department of Transportation, has favorably discussed herbicide use reduction as a goal in roadside maintenance strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Natural Resource Office and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality have identified toxics use reduction as one of the state's top priorities in the 2009-2011 biennium; and

WHEREAS, the US Geological Survey (USGS) conducted water quality sampling during 2000-2005 in Oregon and detected 63 pesticide compounds, including 33 herbicides, 15 insecticides, 6 fungicides, and 9 pesticide degradation products; and

WHEREAS, forty-nine percent of the USGS samples detected herbicides commonly used on roads and right-of-ways; among the highest detection levels were the herbicides diuron, and 2,4-D, commonly used by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); and

WHEREAS, herbicides sprayed on roadsides that are adjacent to streams will likely enter the water during and following rain events, contributing to pollution from run-off; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific evidence confirms that herbicides - even small amounts - can damage the olfactory senses of native salmonids and can alter their ability to find their way upstream to their spawning grounds; and

WHEREAS, ODOT may not have adequately assessed the impact of inert ingredients in the herbicide products on water quality and human health; and

WHEREAS, ODOT plans to spray state highways along Lane County rivers and/or stream that provide salmon habitat, (Highways 36, 58, 126); and

WHEREAS, persons with certain disabilities may not be able to travel on roads that have recently been sprayed, which may constitute a violation of their right of public access and may restrict their ability to travel for medical and other purposes; and

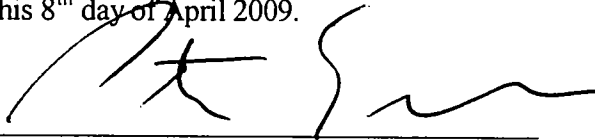
WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Health adopted a Roadside Vegetation Management and Last Resort Policy into Lane County Code in 2003 (LC 15.500); and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners has offered to collaborate with ODOT and share resources to assist in pesticide use reduction by formal letter and in verbal communications.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lane County Board of Commissioners finds that persistent herbicide exposure is now recognized as hazardous and recommends a reconsideration of routine and "residual" herbicides sprays as a roadside maintenance practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County invites ODOT to form a partnership to ensure the implementation of an effective, environmentally-sensitive integrated weed management plan.

Dated this 8th day of April 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Sorenson", written over a horizontal line.

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners