

Ane Forests of Oregon, Inc.

To: Lincoln County Commissioners
225 W. Olive Street, Room 110
Newport, Oregon 97365

Re: NOAP 2023-553-09307
September 8th 2023

Dear Commissioners Miller, Jacobson and Hall,

I received your letter dated August 16th with a request to abate plans for herbicide application by helicopter on our forestland parcels in the South Beaver Creek watershed. I understand there is a great deal of community concern surrounding this planned application.

First, I would like to provide you with some details about myself. I am 86 years old, and I am planning my retirement. In 1975, I became president of a Danish seed company with approximately 500 employees and exported seeds to 130 countries. In 1982, I decided to establish a subsidiary company in Albany. We purchased a farm by Highway 20 next to the Oregon State University research farm. On the farm, we build facilities for breeding grass varieties used domestically and exported around the world. The company is now in Halsey and is the largest breeder and exporter of grass seed in the US. I am proud that this Company has provided local jobs.

Over 30 years ago, we invested in a home and property in Lincoln County which we have had since. I am not an "absentee landowner" as I have been involved as a contributor to this community for decades. I am strong advocate for climate and the environment, and I believe that climate change and global warming is the biggest threat to our grandchildren. I believe that the forest products sector provides a renewable green resource that is vital to our future. Growing renewable forests is a tool to mitigate and reduce climate change. While growing, trees transfer CO₂ to oxygen and while alive and after harvest store carbon, in all materials made of wood including structural materials all materials made of wood including structural materials, siding, flooring, furniture and more all store carbon. As a landowner in Oregon, it is a requirement for us under the Forest Practice Act to reforest after harvest. Herbicides have been validated through science as an important tool in ensuring that reforested trees will grow successfully. Without them, weeds including many invasive species can easily take over and choke out trees. In this specific reforestation effort, we are seeking control of noxious and invasive vegetation to meet our requirement to successfully reforest.

Based on our obligation to ensure that newly planted trees can become "free to grow" our Board of Directors will be moving forward with herbicide application to our harvested units. However, we can offer to do this via ground application rather than by helicopter. This was large part decided based on concerns over protesters: It will cost us an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to switch to ground application.

I am open to visiting and sharing more about myself and the land management decisions we are making. However, for health reasons I am not able to participate in public forums. I would love to discuss this issue with you in person, but I am reluctant to have my home address become public record. However, we do plan to proceed with my obligation to reforest our property and will do so with utmost care following all of Oregon's strong regulations for herbicide application to forestland.

Sincerely,



Ane Forests of Oregon, Inc.
Sorn Nymark, President

