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April 27, 2016

Forest Practices Board
c/o Patricia Anderson
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Forest Practices Division
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

Re: Petition for Rule Making

Dear Forest Practices Board members:

On behalf of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, Skykomish Valley Environmental and Economic Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife, the Washington Forest Law Center, with the assistance of the Regulatory Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at the University of Washington School of Law, submits the enclosed petition for the adoption of a new rule regarding forest chemicals. Supporting materials are provided on CDs. We request that the petition be placed on the Board's agenda for the May 11, 2016 meeting and respectfully request 15-20 minutes to present the proposed rule to the Board, solicit input, and respond to any questions.

Public concern about exposure to potentially dangerous forest chemicals has been a common issue before the Board from a broad swath of stakeholders. The purpose of our proposed rule is to facilitate better communication between landowners and the public through improved public notice and reporting of forest chemical spraying. The petition does not propose to ban any particular chemical or change how any chemical is used in forest management; rather it proposes to provide warning of aerial chemical applications to those most at risk of exposure. Notice will allow residents to communicate concerns to the spray permittee and to take precautionary steps to protect themselves, their families, and their animals. The rule is based upon measures already in place at the Department of Natural Resources Proprietary Division and the Department of Ecology.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for time on the Board's May 11 agenda to present the petition and proposed rule. I am very happy to provide additional materials or answer any questions upon request. Additionally, the petitioners will reach out to each of you to explain the basis of the petition and to respond to questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Golding
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