

My name is Peggy Mee. I live in an HOA in Jackson County.

I wholeheartedly support HB2409. Over the years it has become more and more documented that toxic chemicals, including those containing glyphosate, found in many products that are commonly used, like Roundup, do much more damage than killing weeds. They have been shown to be carcinogenic to humans and other species, as well as doing great damage to many parts of our interconnected ecosystems. The micro-biome of the human body, crucial to our immune system, is composed of plants, our essential gut bacteria flora. The human body is surprisingly composed of more plant than animal it turns out! When we ingest these toxins, we damage our own immune system balance. In addition to impacting the health of our own species, pets, and other animals, they are known to damage, kill or sterilize essential pollinator species, like bees, birds, etc. Without them, pollination ceases, and so does the food supply.

After damaging plants, these toxins leave residue that kills, neurologically impacts, or sterilizes our critical life sustaining pollinators. When sprayed, the toxins may blow on to other unintended areas and plants. They also can leach into ground water, streams, rivers, oceans, thus killing plants, fish and other creatures, impacting the food chain for many species, including ourselves. We now have the education and science to know better than using these harmful products. Remember the 1960's and DDT, etc? Have we learned or do people just want to use a fast, easy technique that is very harmful?

Last year our HOA hired a company called Chem Free to treat a large common area that was exploding with weeds. Our gardener could not keep up, as it was a particularly bad weed year, and we had several large common areas also badly infested. He had little extra time to do needed chores in our HOA as the weed issues were so bad. We decided to do some test areas using different methods. The Chem Free method was the most effective, and the weeds stayed away longer as well. And best of all it's totally safe for people, pets and planet! It uses hot water to kill the roots and then the seeds that drop. Highly recommend trying it! It can effectively be used in HOA's, cities, public areas, homes, etc. It's safe and it works. I know the city of Talent bought a machine using that method, as does the Southern Oregon University campus.

I would love to see people become more educated and aware of safe practices like this. We can befriend our planet, and keep its inhabitants healthy. Promoting non-toxic methods that work is a win win! We are all connected—what we do to others we ultimately do to ourselves.

I believe people should have the right to not have toxics sprayed on or near their property, be they in an HOA, city, public park, etc. At the very least, they should be informed if the area is to be or was sprayed so they can avoid it.

Thank you!
Peggy Mee