TALKING POINTS IN SUPPORT OF NON TOXIC ROADSIDES

Please be prepared - you may only have 2 minutes to speak.
Please convey your concerns courteously, professionally, and concisely.

1. The data show that many of the products being applied by Jackson County Roads throughout the year are harmful in both the short- and long-term to pollinators, fish, birds, and people.
2. While non-toxic vegetation management control methods may appear to cost more initially, there is an increasing consensus that the associated non-financial costs far outweigh the actual expenses and must be taken into consideration.
3. More than half of the volume of herbicides used are on the Highly Hazardous Pesticide list published by the International Pesticide Action Network.
4. Better and safer methods have already been adopted in other counties in Oregon and around the country because of changing practices and reducing pesticide applications.
5. Many municipalities have already chosen to stop using these toxic herbicides, many of which are proven carcinogens.
6. Other road agencies have narrower sprayed shoulder areas, and use the roadsides to help filter water into the land, rather than simply carrying it away, along with sediment and the herbicides, into local streams.
7. There are now over 40,000 lawsuits pending against Monsanto/Bayer filed by people who have been exposed to glyphosate-containing products, and we do not want the County to be implicated in such a suit.
8. Residents along county roads receive no notice of a pending spray application, nor is any posting made after the fact. We should be advised when and what is to be sprayed so we can take precautions before opening our mailbox, walking our dog, or sending our child to wait at the school bus stop.
9. Postal workers should consider that they are exposed to the material sprayed on mailboxes.
10. Children ride bikes, walk to school, wait for school buses and play in yards next to county roads. The U.S. EPA, National Academy of Sciences, and American Public Health Association have voiced concerns about the dangers that pesticides pose to children because scientific evidence shows that pesticide exposure can adversely affect a child’s neurological, respiratory, reproductive, immune, and endocrine systems, even at low levels.
11. Dollars spent on chemicals leave the community and eliminate local jobs.
12. We strongly encourage Jackson County to consider all the information being presented and make changes to the products used and practices followed so that our county is a safer and more beautiful place to live.
13. We request that in 2019 the Commissioners and Jackson County Roads hold a public work session with other road agencies in the region who have already been down this road and reduced their herbicide use.
14. The most effective way to protect human health and the environment is to prevent pollutants from getting into the environment, rather than mitigating or managing the risks after the pollutant has been released into soil, water and air. Pollution prevention can be accomplished through a goal-based Integrated Vegetation Management Policy and Program that prioritizes chemical reduction, lowest-toxicity products, buffer zones around surface waters, protecting wildlife, mowing, native replantings and rethinking the aesthetics of highway management.
15. Formal human rights documents declare that persons have moral rights -- and governments have moral duties -- and one of the most basic is the right to a clean and healthful environment. The right not to be exposed to neurotoxicants by one’s own government is not a high, virtuous ideal but a basic ethical minimum.

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