

W. 7. b.

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION 07-3-21-5

) IN THE MATTER OF URGING A  
) FIELD BURNING BAN IN OREGON  
)

WHEREAS, a primary duty of government is to protect public health, requiring it to ensure that residents have clean air to breathe; and

WHEREAS, each summer and fall, the burning of grass seed and cereal grain residue (field burning) in the Willamette Valley produces smoke that is inhaled by Lane County residents, both fine and coarse particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), upon review of relevant scientific studies, reports an association between exposure to particulate matter and significant health problems, including aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease, and

WHEREAS, even short-term exposure to fine particulate air pollution has been found to increase the risk for hospital admissions for cardiovascular and respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, exposure to smoke from field burning presents significant risks to persons with weaker respiratory function, including the elderly and children, and especially endangers persons with respiratory difficulties, including children and elderly persons with respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, under state law, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) regulates the practice of field burning in the Willamette Valley to reduce smoke impacts on populated areas, but their success is limited by "unexpected wind shifts, rapidly changing mixing heights, rapidly decreasing transport wind speeds and directions, other meteorological factors and inefficient lighting techniques;" and

WHEREAS, under state law, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency is precluded from protecting residents of Lane County from field burning smoke despite receiving 385 complaints in 2006; and

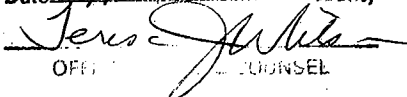
WHEREAS, 1,182 complaints were received from Willamette Valley residents by ODA in 2006, exceeding the 1,106 complaints received in 2005, 475 in 2004, 206 in 2003, 705 in 2002, and 608 in 2001.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, the Lane Board of County Commissioners strongly urges the state legislature to enact HB 3000 to address field burning in its 2007 legislative session.

DATED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2007.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date: 3/16/07 County

  
OFFICE COUNSEL

Faye Stewart

Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners