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OREGONIANS DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO FIELD BURNING Campaign to End Field Burning Releases Endorsement List

Eugene, Oregon – The Campaign to End Field Burning today released a long list of endorsers demonstrating widespread support for a legislative ban on field burning in the Willamette Valley. To date, the Campaign has received over 100 endorsements from business associations and individual businesses, including many in the outdoor recreation industry, farming, food products and distribution, financial services, and restaurants. Additionally, the Lane County Medical Society, representing over 700 physicians, and many other Oregonians, have joined the Campaign’s call for an immediate end to field burning.

“It is indisputable that field burning smoke constitutes a serious threat to public health,” said Western Environmental Law Center attorney and Campaign Co-Director Charlie Tebbutt. “We encourage all Oregonians to join the Campaign to send a loud and clear message to Oregon’s legislative leaders that the field burning program must be terminated immediately, and that the recently ended 2008 burn season must be the last.”

Mike Coughlin, owner of Burley Design, LLC, emphasized that “Oregon has tried to cultivate the image of a progressive state that cares about clean air and outdoor recreation opportunities yet continuing to allow open field burning runs directly contrary to these principles. There are other manageable alternatives to field burning for grass seed growers, so a ban on open field burning will not place any undue hardship on an already vibrant industry.”

Dr. Robert Carolan, a Eugene-based pulmonologist and an advisor to the Campaign, noted that, “inhalation of smoke from burning fields presents a serious threat to many patients with both lung and heart disease. It also presents a real risk to many others, including children and the elderly.”

Numerous state and county elected officials have also extended their support, including State Representatives Paul Holvey, Phil Barnhart and Sara Gelser, State Senator Floyd Prozanski, Lane County Commissioners Bill Dwyer and Peter Sorenson, Commissioner-elect Rob Handy, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Eugene City Councilors Bonny Bettman, Betty Taylor, Chris Pryor, Andrea Ortiz, and Alan Zelenka, and Councilor-elect George Brown (see attachment of endorser statements).

“My constituents told me loudly and clearly that they are suffering from field burning smoke” commented Representative Paul Holvey. “As I did in 2007, I will be introducing a bill to end field burning in the Willamette Valley. The Oregon legislature has the responsibility to make sure that September’s burns were the last anyone in Oregon will ever see. The support of the business and medical communities will provide the support we need in the upcoming legislative session,” continued Holvey.

"The City of Eugene opposes field burning, recognizing its adverse effects on the health of the people of our community. I strongly support the Campaign to End Field Burning's objective of an immediate and permanent ban on the burning of grass field wastes in the 2009 legislative session. This problem has plagued the health of Willamette Valley residents for decades. With the tax credits and development of alternatives that have long been provided to the grass seed industry, it is now time to stop this dangerous practice," stated Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Field burning was banned in the State of Washington over a decade ago and their industry has continued to thrive. In 2008, more than 38,000 acres were burned in Oregon.

“Support for an end to field burning crosses the political spectrum. Our list of supporters is growing by the day. We welcome all interested businesses and individuals to join us in fighting for cleaner air in Oregon in 2009,” concluded Tebbutt.

The Campaign to End Field Burning, a project of the Western Environmental Law Center, has also been working closely with the Oregon Toxics Alliance and countless other members of the Willamette Valley.

The [Western Environmental Law Center](#) is a nonprofit public interest law firm that works to protect and restore western wildlands and advocates for a healthy environment on behalf of communities throughout the West.

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List of Endorsement Statements:

“I have witnessed and felt the negative affects of field burning for 35 years. I watched as my brother coughed up blood after running a race at Hayward Field that included thick, black smoke from field burning...We all need to be concerned with the quality of life, our health and what we are doing to the planet that we live on.”

- Linda Prefontaine, Prefontaine Productions, LLC, and sister of Olympic runner Steve Prefontaine

“Steve Prefontaine asked [Oregon Senators] to personally promise to ban field burning. They promised nothing. They heeded the growers’ lobby...[and] backed away from a ban...[A continuation of field burning is] more years for the hundreds of thousands of lungs and systems, young and old, to be forced to sicken every time the wind changes and another big one blows in. The medical community has cried out for a halt. Burning’s end is inevitable. Its time should be now.”

- Kenny Moore, Olympic Marathoner and author of “Bowerman and the Men of Oregon: The Story of Oregon's Legendary Coach and Nike's Cofounder”

“Eliminating field burning was one of the recommendations made to the state legislature back in 1989. Waiting twenty years for action to ban this polluting practice is waiting far too long. We are pleased that folks are getting engaged in the 2008 campaign.”

- Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of the Oregon Toxics Alliance

“The medical research detailing the harm caused to people's health by the burning of grass seed fields is overwhelming and undeniable. We need to protect Oregonians by immediately banning this practice, particularly the thousands of children, elderly and people with respiratory and cardiac illnesses who live in rural areas most impacted by the smoke. Over the last several years the majority of grass seed growers have found alternative practices to field burning. Any economic benefit to the minority of growers who still insist on burning is vastly outweighed by the harm to public health.”

- Holly, Carolyn, and Cork Higgins, Harrisburg, OR

“Living in the Sweet Home area, I experienced the worst of the worst in "fall-out" from field burning....sootballs literally falling from the sky and the air so thick you could only see a quarter mile. Summer was ruined once the field burning season started.”

- Tim Bauer, Corvallis resident

“[We] are literally held hostage by field burning smoke every summer. After moving here, my wife and two youngest sons were diagnosed with respiratory conditions related to field burning. There are alternatives that wouldn’t cause me and thousands of other Oregonians like me, to suffer unfairly. It’s time for this practice to stop.”

- Steve Nielsen, Mill City resident

“The State of Oregon requires school property to be 100 percent tobacco-free. Meanwhile, our school grounds are often blanketed in field burning smoke during the burning season. Can someone explain the logic to me in prohibiting an adult from smoking a cigarette in a school parking lot while allowing smoke from field burning to engulf the entire campus?”

- Kevin Strong, Business Manager, Sweet Home School District

"My district is urban and rural, so I represent both farmers and city dwellers. Field burning is a health hazard to everyone and I am committed to ending it."

- Phil Barnhart, State Representative, Central Lane and Linn Counties

"Tactics thanks the Western Environmental Law Center for taking the lead to help protect the health of everyone in the Willamette Valley. With the state of knowledge on health consequences and alternatives, it makes no sense for the state to continue to allow field burning."

- Bob Chandler, Tactics Board Shop

"I'm supporting the Campaign to End Field Burning because of the number of people I've represented as a Lane County Commissioner or as an Oregon State Senator who have told me how much field burning hurts them. Field burning is a practice whose time has come and gone. It needs to end."

- Pete Sorenson, Lane County Commissioner

"The serious health risk from field burning is now known and it imposes a real cost to all of us from continuing an unnecessary practice."

- Ed King, CEO King Estate Winery

"The practice of field burning has long been a bane to the health of Oregonians, particularly the rural residents who have been made the sacrifice zones for the smoke. Oregon Country Trails' members are situated directly in the sacrifice zone areas. The practice of field burning not only creates a public health threat for all who encounter its clouds of smoke, but also gives the rural tourism industry a huge black eye. The mushroom clouds that come from this barbaric practice are enough to scare anyone from visiting our wonderful wineries, farms, artisans, B&Bs, and outdoor recreation facilities and no doubt have a significant negative economic impact on the small businesses that help provide the backbone of our rural communities."

- Danuta Pfeiffer, Pfeiffer Winery and President of the Oregon Country Trails

"On behalf of Arcimoto, LLC I heartily endorse the Campaign to End Field Burning's efforts to obtain a complete legislative ban on field burning in 2009. Field burning is harmful to everyone exposed and Oregon residents have needlessly suffered for too long. As a lifelong Eugene resident, I've experienced first hand the negative respiratory effects of this practice and strongly recommend changing to practices that don't poison the air we breathe."

- Mark Frohnmayer, Arcimoto, LLC

"I work in the natural food industry and every season I see people coming into our business, looking for relief from their symptoms of field burning. They often must wear a mask; eyes are red, and are experiencing breathing difficulties."

- Mark Lew, president of Capella Market

"Of course grass burning should be banned. What is more important than our health?"

- Steve Mertz, Eugene Partner, Laughing Planet Café

"As someone who lived in Eugene on Black Tuesday, I have watched the field burning smoke get better each year. It is now time to have it gone permanently."

- Jean Tate

"WELC sets the standard, demonstrating what can be accomplished with intelligence and hard work."

- Art Johnson, Attorney, Johnson, Clifton, Larson, and Schaller, P.C.

"It's unbelievable that this practice is still going on."

- Hugh and Sue Prichard

"The Willamette Valley is already known as the 'valley of sickness.' Why are we adding more pollutants, especially when alternatives are available?"

- Tom Kamis, Davis' Restaurant

"Field burning smoke not only presents a health hazard, but it also browns out the beautiful blue summer days hiking in the Cascades. Clean air and outdoor recreation go hand-in-hand."

- Michael Monson, Backcountry Gear Limited

Business and Professional/Organizational Endorsements

Lane County Medical Society
Oregon Lung Specialists
Oregon Country Fair
Oregon Toxics Alliance
Civil Liberties Defense Center
Northwest Environmental Defense Center

Agate Alley Bar & Bistro, Doug Beard
Arcimoto, LLC, Mark Frohnmayer
Backcountry Gear Limited
Bike Friday
Bliss Unlimited, LLC, Larry Kaplowitz and Luna Marcus
Burley Design, LLC, Mike Coughlin
Café Lucky Noodle, Joshua Keim
Café Mam, Dahinda Meda
Café Soriah, Ibrahim Hamide
Capella Market, Mark Lew
Casablanca Middle Eastern Restaurant, Ibrahim Hamide
Citizens Building, LLC
Club Snafu, Joshua Keim
Davis' Restaurant, Tom Kamis and Daryl Andersen
Dot Dotson, Jim Dotson
Eugene Alternative Realtors
First Affirmative Financial Network, Nancy Gallagher
Gallagher Financial Services, Nancy Gallagher
Hayhurst Organic Farm and Nursery, Rich Wilen
High Pass Winery, Dieter Boehm
Holy Cow Foods, Anton Ferreira and Katherine Lavine
Jaeger Real Estate, Mark Jaeger
Johnson, Clifton, Larson and Schaller, P.C.
Jo Federigo's Hour House Restaurant and Jazz Club, Joshua Keim
Laughing Planet Cafe, Steve Mertz
Little Wing Farm, Steve Gidley
Majestic Forest Products, Steve Hammans
Museum of Unfine Art and Record Store, Shawn Feinstein
New Odyssey, Walter Hunt
Oak Street Speakeasy
Oregon Country Trails
Organically Grown Company
Owls' Roost Farm, Karen Murphy
Pacific Rim Manufacturing
Paul's Bicycle Way of Life, Paul Nicholson
Pfeiffer Winery, Danuta Pfeiffer
Pizza Research Institute, Will and Usha Boise

Prefontaine Productions, LLC, Linda Prefontaine
Revolution Cycles, Shane Ayresman
Ring of Fire, Joshua Keim
Royal Blue Organics, Dahinda Meda
Sam Bonds, Mark Jaeger and Partners
Sandpiper Import Service, Geri and John Baxter
SportHill Inc., Jim Hill
Stillpoint Farm, Gina Thomas
Sundance Natural Foods, Gavin McComas
Sundance Wine Cellars, Gavin McComas
Sunset Hills Cemetery & Funeral Home, Wade Lind
Surata Soyfoods
Sweet Creek Foods, Paul and Judy Fuller
Sweet Life Patisserie, Cheryl and Catherine Reinhart
Tactics, Bob Chandler and Matt Patton
The Kiva, George Brown
Thrive Chiropractic, G.L. Kerr, D.C.
Tipping Tree Farm, Kendra Kimbirauskas
Tsunami Books, Scott Landfield
Un Solo Pueblo, Raven Rowley
US Sports Plex
West Wind Forest Products, Deborah Noble
White Oak Farm, Chris Anderson and Don Pierce
Whiteaker Station, Mark Frohnmayer
Wood Tech Services, George VanVleet

Elected Officials

Phil Barnhart, House Representative, D-11
Bonny Bettman, Eugene City Councilor
George Brown, Eugene City Councilor-elect
Bill Dwyer, Eugene City Councilor
Sara Gelser, House Representative, D-16
Rob Handy, Lane County Commissioner-elect
Paul Holvey, Representative, D-8
Andrea Ortiz, Eugene City Councilor
Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene
Floyd Prozanski, Senator, D-4
Chris Pryor, Eugene City Councilor
Pete Sorenson, Lane County Commissioner
Betty Taylor, Eugene City Councilor
Alan Zelenka, Eugene City Councilor

Individual Endorsements

Dr. Allen Heaman
Dr. Allen Kibbey
Dr. Andrew Rushton
Dr. Beth Blumenstein
Dr. Bonnie Pollack
Dr. Byrke O. Beller
Dr. Cynthia Palman
Dr. Daniel Sheerin
Dr. Delta Ruscheinsky
Dr. Denis McCarthy
Dr. Eugene V. Friedrich
Dr. Frank Turner
Dr. Gerald Fleischl
Dr. Glenn M. Gordon
Dr. James Fitzgibbons
Dr. James Murdock
Dr. James Salerno
Dr. Jeff Larkin
Dr. Joan M. Jensen
Dr. John Bascom
Dr. John R. LeBow
Dr. Jon Baumann
Dr. Josephine BR von Hippel
Dr. Karthik Mahadevan
Dr. Kathleen Wiley
Dr. Kathryn Gilliland
Dr. Ken McClain
Dr. Kenneth Starr
Dr. Larry Dunlap
Dr. Laura Sandersen
Dr. Leta Teresa Callahan
Dr. Maria Bolanos-McClain
Dr. Matthew B. Walter
Dr. Matthew Shapiro
Dr. Merideth Wendland
Dr. Michael Millstein
Dr. Michelle Taube
Dr. Pamela Andresen
Dr. Patrick Lish
Dr. Paul Kaplan
Dr. Peter Gary
Dr. Peter Kay
Dr. Richard Mentzer

Dr. Robert Carolan
Dr. Robert L. Velarde
Dr. Roger Hall
Dr. Roy Blackburn
Dr. Simona Boren
Dr. Stanley A. Filarski
Dr. Steve Koester
Dr. Steven D. Marks
Dr. Victoria Skellkerf
Dr. William C. Wu
Dr. William MacMaster
Dr. William Moshofsky, Chief of Staff, Sacred
Heart Medical Center
Carla Hervert, R.N., pulmonary and cardiac
therapy, Sacred Heart Medical Center

Art Johnson
Holly Higgins
Jean Tate
Mel Bankoff
Mike Wiederhold
Tom Pringle
John Sundquist
David Monk
Drew Johnson
Xander Kahn
Ed King, CEO King Estate Winery
University of Oregon Law Professors:
Mary Wood
Steve Bender
Jim Mooney
Dominick Vetri
John Bonine

And, more than 1,200 petition signers in 2008