



March 21, 2013

To: Representative Jules Bailey, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Environment, and the Members of the Committee: Representative Deborah Boone, Representative Mark Johnson, Representative Jeff Reardon, Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Representative Jim Weidner, Representative Gail Whitsett, Representative Michael Dembrow, and Representative Cliff Bentz

**Re: HB 3171, Creating Exemptions from State Preemption for Local Laws Designed to Prevent or Control Presence of Pesticides in Potable Water.**

Dear Chairman Bailey and the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

We strongly oppose HB 3171. The safe and effective use of pesticides is paramount to our ability to farm effectively, economically and provide safe food. The laws of the United States and the State of Oregon already tightly control pesticides.

We use extreme caution in applying any pesticides on our farm. We follow all product labels exactly and carefully avoid any over-use of pesticides. This is not only for the health of our family, our customers, and the local environment we love, but also for economic reasons. Unnecessary use of pesticides costs us money that we cannot afford. We believe this is true for all farmers and ranchers.

If HB 3171 were to be passed, how could we be sure that we can abide by local laws that might be enacted? Also, manufacturer's ability to make correct and legal labels for each small area where laws might be different from State and Federal law could easily lead to our inability to buy the products we need. This would be particularly true for new pesticides for crops like cranberries. It is already difficult to get the makers of pesticides to spend the time and money required to get labels approved for State-wide use in small specialty crops. This is because each crop on which the chemical may be used must be specified on the label. Newer, safer and more effective pesticides are rapidly being developed and manufactured. The additional expense for manufacturers to generate legal labels for each county or municipality will cause them to drop the registrations in the State of Oregon, making these better products unavailable or illegal to use. This would be counter-productive to the intent of HB 3171.

It is also very possible that local lawmakers could put into place laws that are not founded on proven scientific facts and thereby cause unnecessary loss of our ability to keep our Oregon farms and ranches economically viable as safe food sources for our Country. Control of such an important component of good farming practices as pesticides needs to be done by the Federal and Oregon State Governments, based on sound science.

For these reasons we strongly encourage you to vote against HB 3171.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Puhl, Mary Anne Puhl, Nicholas Puhl, and Gregory Puhl

The Puhl Family, Owners and Operators of Cape Blanco Cranberries

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