



College of Agricultural Sciences

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April 3, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards, Co-Chair
Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

RE: Oregon State University testimony on SB 5520 PSP Budget POP (#320)

Dear Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger,

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships (PSPs) represent a voluntary, collaborative approach to improve local water quality problems associated with pesticide use. The PSP's use local expertise (including Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center [IPPC] and local County Extension), in combination with water quality sampling to support voluntary changes in pesticide use practices.

Since 2004, the IPPC has partnered with the ODEQ to deliver needs-based education programs to farmers, backed up by IPPC-developed decision support tools.

In the first phase of this cooperation (2004 - 2008), IPPC conducted 30 programs, reaching an audience of 1799 participants. Six months after farmers had taken our workshops, 61-87% of those surveyed adopting lower risk pesticide application practices, or used newly-developed decision aids.

In the second phase of this program, between 2010 and March 2013, IPPC designed, coordinated and evaluated a further 26 workshops that built capacities among farmers and consultants in IPM program planning, weather-based IPM decision support tools, conservation biological control, pollinator management, pesticide application management and pesticide risk assessment. We have reached 1,019 participants in the Yamhill and Pudding Basins, Hood and Wasco county watersheds and the Walla Walla Basin, farming more than 350,000 acres.

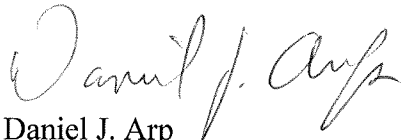
Farmers have significantly improved their capacities in pesticide management, and have gained access to sophisticated pest mapping websites, climate and weather-based decision aids and pesticide risk assessment tools. Use of our decision support tools has risen from <4,000 per annum in 2009 to >18,000 per annum in 2012. In combination, these resulted in better targeting of sprays to the times, locations and crop growth stages of greatest pest risk and an overall reduction in pesticide application and environmental risks.

These programs have been strongly supported by the ODEQ pesticide monitoring program, and compounds of greatest concern have declined in concentration or been eliminated from these watersheds.

The PSP exemplifies the way in which OSU's research and extension missions can be deployed to good effect in partnership with state agencies and we greatly value the consideration that is being given by the legislature to PSPs.

We note that, to date, state funds have paid for the State IPM Coordinator and IPPC Director salary, but the balance of PSP programmatic costs has come from over \$7 million in external grants since 2004. State support that would facilitate IPPC's role in the PSPs would be greatly appreciated and help to support this important and successful program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Arp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "A".

Daniel J. Arp
Dean and Reub Long Professor