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Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

District 25: Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chair Witt

Vice-Chair Esquivel, Vice-Chair McKeown

Rep. Reardon, Rep. Thompson, Rep. Unger, Rep. Krieger, Rep. Clem, Rep. Whitsett

Support HB 3364, Integrated Pest Management

Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Esquivel and McKeown, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

Please support HB 3364 which would require state agencies and public universities to adopt integrated pest management strategies. This bill is necessary for the health of our public employees and their families.

Integrated Pest Management is a strategy of controlling pest problems without turning immediately to the use of harmful, toxic spray pesticides. IPM calls out the need to look at other avenues for addressing pest issues while reducing, or when possible eliminating, the use of hazardous chemicals in public maintenance. These chemicals have proven to be harmful to developing children, who are often exposed when expectant mothers come into contact with pesticides, when parents bring chemicals home with them on their work clothes, and when pesticides enter the water supply, to name a few incidents of exposure.

From a public health standpoint, the notification piece in Section 4 and the pest management material data safety sheet for tracking the chemicals applied in Section 5 are both very important. The public must be made aware of when these applications happen and which chemicals were used.

IPM is a prevention based approach to pest control and public health that is proven effective. It is not a marginal, environmental conspiracy, but an industry standard that should be adopted by the State of Oregon for our public grounds. Toxic chemicals that put our children at risk should not be used on state and public grounds without attempting alternate means of pest control and careful consideration of the effects they have on our children and our communities. This is a public health issue, and it is our responsibility as legislators to make sure that employees and visitors to our public buildings, surrounding grounds, public campgrounds, roads, and trails, are not subjected to the use of hazardous chemicals until it is the last resort.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your aye vote.