

**Testimony before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on
HB 3364**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Chair Witt, and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Oregon Environmental Council supports the passage of House Bill 3364, which will maximize effective, sustainable management of pests, diseases and weeds by strengthening and improving coordination among state agency programs that implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies on state-owned and leased properties.

Oregon is fortunate to be home to the Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) at Oregon State University. Through the IPPC, Oregonians have the benefit of nationally recognized faculty at the forefront of research, tools, and training to assist pesticide users in more effectively controlling pests, diseases and weeds while reducing unintended negative impacts on human health, water quality, wildlife, and native vegetation.

IPPC builds knowledge among pesticide users in IPM program planning, weather-based IPM decision support tools, conservation biological control, pollinator management, pesticide application management and pesticide risk assessment.

As an example, through a recent IPPC project, farmers in Hood and Wasco counties have significantly improved their skills 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 IPPC's decision support tools has risen from <4,000 per year in 2009 to >18,000 per year in 2012. In combination, these tools 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.

The State of Oregon has an opportunity to be a leader in the use of IPM in its own operations to more effectively and sustainably manage pests and weeds, and to share what it learns with other industry sectors in Oregon. By providing a forum for IPM training, coordination and shared learning among state agencies, and ensuring they benefit from the research, tools and knowledge at OSU IPPC, this bill will enable state agencies to operate more efficiently and effectively while protecting our health and environment.

We support this important bill, and hope you will too.