

## **HB 3364**

### **Testimony before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

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Beyond Toxics supports the passage of HB 3364<sup>4</sup> as amended in the A Engrossed version. The purpose of HB 3364 is to establish State Integrated Pest Management for our state-owned facilities, from public areas to resource lands. IPM is a long-standing, science-based, decision-making process that identifies and reduces risks from pests and pest management related strategies. IPM serves as an umbrella to coordinate the use of pest biology, environmental information, and technology to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means, while posing the least possible risk to people, property, resources, water, wildlife and the environment.

These words are quoted from the United States Department of Agriculture's prototypical document on IPM, called the IPM Road Map, published in 2004. When the agricultural agency adopted the IPM Road Map nearly ten years ago, it recognized that the use of pesticides requires science, planning, forethought and metrics. When implemented correctly, IPM will then save time, money, and prevent unnecessary chemical residuals in buildings and in the environment.

IPM originally began in the agricultural business sector; that is because it is a common sense, practical discipline that relies on science's evolving understanding of the life cycle of pests, their ability to inflict damage and economic harm, as well as considerable environmental and medical data regarding the unintended consequences of using harsh chemicals. Pest management systems are subject to constant change, and must respond to epidemiological uncertainty as well as respond to the benefits of new technology. For example, pests may become resistant to chemical pesticides or trapping methods. Ornamental plants sold in Oregon's nurseries and gardening stores may become the invasive weeds of the future. Unusual weather patterns may introduce new species that will require effective, coordinated and carefully considered treatment options. Oregon needs IPM to be prepared with the best science to face the future.

A strong component of HB 3364 is the commitment of Oregon State University – our State Land Grant University – to provide expert staff, funding and a legacy of scientific research and knowledge. Oregon State University faculty are equipped and ready to provide world class guidance, training, scientific methods and a system of metrics to our state agencies. Oregon State University is also the site for the National Pesticide Information Center, a clearinghouse for science-based information related to pesticides and pest management. People from all across American dial a 1-800 number for information on pesticides, and those calls come to Corvallis, Oregon, to OSU, whose pesticide consultation is widely utilized and respected. HB 3364 makes the most efficient use of the knowledge and financial investment from OSU.

Another strength of HB 3364 is the broad scope of supporters it has earned. You will find medical professionals, pest control companies, people who fish and hunt, rural Oregonians, urban Oregonians, and more. Rural Oregonians stand to gain as much if not more from this legislation. Rural communities have unique pest pressures that require the best pest management science. They have also been most significantly impacted by pest management strategies.

One example, as recently as 2010, occurred when herbicides were applied to public roadsides in Klamath County and then found to have migrated to ground water. The pesticide application resulted in considerable property damage for a number of residents.

Also, in 2012, twenty-two rural Oregon schools participated in the United States Department of Agriculture's analysis of school drinking water. Tests of drinking water at rural schools revealed the presence of pesticides in 50% of the schools. The detection of these pesticides suggests that chemicals are getting into groundwater that is being used for drinking purposes. The schools were located in various locations across the state including Ontario, Corvallis, Brookings, Bend, Mollala and Mulino.

Even in small amounts, pesticides in school water are a concern. Children are more vulnerable to the effects of pesticide exposure because they can't metabolize toxic chemicals in the same way that adults can. Their hormonal and nervous systems are still developing and need to be protected during critical windows of development. Another reason to support HB 3364 is because it helps our state agencies take appropriate steps to reduce pesticides where they should not be found to ensure a healthy future for our children.

The scope of HB 3364 applies only to state-owned public property, not to private land or commercial pest control. Yet, it *is* the industry standard. In fact, to quote one of the Oregon-based pest control companies that currently contracts with the Oregon Department of Administrative Services: "... the State of Oregon would be well served by adopting IPM as the standard for pest treatment because of the realized efficiencies, cost effectiveness and risk reductions....over time [IPM] saves money ..., limits the possibility of human exposure to pesticides, and in my experience is more successful." (See testimony from Eden Advanced Pest Technologies, 3/27/2013)

Oregon's state agencies already spends millions of dollars in pest control efforts. The problem we have is the presence of pests, and utilizing the most effective and least harmful control strategies – and that problem is ever ongoing.

With the help of HB 3364, Oregon will stay up-to-date on the science of controlling pests; 2) use the funds we are already spending on pest control most effectively, and 3) be responsive to the needs and concerns of the public. IPM for state agencies is professional, systematic and verifiable. It is a policy that citizens and government alike can be proud to support.