



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources on House Bills 2589, 3123, 3428, 3429, 3430, 3434, and 3482**

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Oregon Environmental Council believes it is critical to protect the health of Oregonians, our drinking water, and our wildlife from harm caused by pesticides, while still enabling the use of effective pest control methods to protect crops and human health, and prevent invasive species. Our priority should be providing information, training and reasonable requirements to ensure that effective pest control methods create the least risk possible to human health and our environment.

To strike a reasonable balance will require sufficient, transparent recordkeeping to understand the use of pesticides with the potential risk of harm, and using this to inform investment in research and training in risk management and sound pest control methods. This information is also important to understanding trends in human, water quality and wildlife impacts, and designing programs to avoid these impacts in the future. Good recordkeeping is critical to be able to access data about use in a timely manner when an incident occurs. The state should be a leader in this kind of recordkeeping in its own operations.

There should be an easy-to-access system to receive, track and investigate complaints about the impacts of pesticide use. This should alert the state when there is a larger problem, and prompt the responsible state agency to try to address the issue before it grows.

Pesticide drift has sickened Oregonians and damaged neighboring crops. There are pesticides in finished drinking water, and in streams impacting threatened and endangered native fish. We need to invest in better systems to avoid these impacts to human and environmental health in the future. We hope you will consider the many ideas in these bills, and with significant input from all those impacted, establish and invest in systems to strike a balance that better protects our health and environment while still enabling land managers to access the tools they need to control pests in a way that minimizes risks to all.