

## **Pesticide Reform Package**

**Background:** Over the last several years a couple of high profile incidents involving the misuse of pesticides has brought increased attention to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) pesticide regulatory program. While cases of misuse cannot be solved by putting a new law on the books, it is clear that ODA needs more capacity both to respond to complaints and to respond to the concerns of complainants. There also needs to be better coordination between the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) agencies to ensure that pesticide investigations are sufficient to address all concerns. Lastly, there are concerns around the aerial applications of pesticides. We have confidence that the majority of aerial applicators in the state do an outstanding job, but want to make sure all aerial applicators are well trained. We have worked to create four bills that help address this complex issue, and would appreciate your support in moving this package forward.

### **HB 3430 - Improvements to ODA pesticide investigations**

- Requires ODA to establish a toll-free telephone “hotline” that is available to the public 24/7. The line would provide information about how to make a pesticide related complaint, and provide contact information for poison control centers, etc. in case there are immediate health concerns.
- Requires ODA to establish a system to receive written complaints regarding pesticide use.
- Establishes timelines for ODA to initiate investigations after receiving a written complaint. ODA must initiate an investigation immediately if the complaint indicates that an acute exposure to humans or animals of a pesticide may have occurred. All other complaints must be initiated within 48 hours of receiving the written complaint.
- Requires ODA pesticide investigators to maintain a valid pesticide applicator license. This ensures that the investigators have a baseline knowledge of pesticide applications and continuing education to maintain the license.

### **HB 3428 - Licensing requirements for aerial applicators**

- Creates an aerial pesticide applicator certificate. In order to apply pesticides aerially in the state the pilot must maintain a valid certificate. To obtain a certificate the pilot must:
  - Hold a valid pesticide applicator license
  - Hold a valid commercial pilot certificate for the type of aircraft being used
  - Have 50 or more hours of experience as a pesticide applicator or pesticide trainee under the supervision of a pesticide applicator
  - Pass an exam that demonstrates knowledge of the proper way to apply pesticides aerially
  - Complete 10 credit hours of continuing education specifically related to the aerial application of pesticides every five years

### **HB 3429 - Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) coordination**

- Requires PARC agencies to adopt standard operating procedures that outline how pesticide complaints will be handled between the agencies. Ensures that PARC is the triage that it was initially intended to be.
- Requires PARC to put standard operating procedures in semiannual report to the legislature.
- Requires PARC agency representatives to maintain a valid pesticide applicator license. This ensures that the agency representatives have a baseline knowledge of pesticide applications and continuing education.

### **HB 3434 - Funding for PARC**

- Funds PARC so that ODA and OHA can dedicate 1 FTE each to staff PARC. Currently only staffed at .5 FTE level.