

Watts Remy

From: Heidi Geschwill <hidawg@ilcoud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 8:27 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Please Oppose HB 3058 & SB 853 - maintain our pest management tools

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Dear Chair Dembrow,

I am a farmer and nurseryman, and HB 3058/SB 853 will hurt my business, and thousands of other farms in Oregon. We rely on the chemicals you wish to ban, and the chemicals are not bad as you want to believe. Sound science and facts should be governing the use of pesticides, not the Oregon legislature. All these bills are a social feel-good move, that will open the door to banning the rest of the tools we have to remain competitive in the global marketplace. The bans and restrictions will hurt Oregon's farmers and nurserymen. The bans will even affect pet owners! I beg you, oppose this legislation.

HB 3058 and SB 853 are unnecessarily banning chlorpyrifos which will remove this valuable pest management tool from Oregon's farmers. Chlorpyrifos has been used in cropping systems for over 4 decades, is authorized for use in nearly 100 countries and is labelled for use on more than 50 agricultural crops. These bills put Oregon growers, who must compete in the interstate and international markets, at a significant disadvantage.

Oregon farmers grow over 225 different crops, and chlorpyrifos is a vital tool on specialty crops when there is no alternative pesticide available. Keeping this tool available is critical to controlling crop-damaging insects in Oregon's Christmas trees, vegetables, mint, and many of our crops grown for seed such as clover, radish, and perennial grass.

HB 3058 and SB 853 also unnecessarily classifies all neonicotinoid products as Restricted Use in Oregon. In order to be classified as GENERAL USE by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, these products are required to clearly demonstrate their safety to mammals and birds. Oregon does not have any data that justifies limiting these products to licensed pesticide applicators only. Neonicotinoid products (over 625 registered in Oregon) are currently available to any user including farmers and homeowners. Neonicotinoids have been extremely valuable in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems to allow selectivity in controlling harmful pests while allowing beneficial insects to thrive.

Honey bees and other pollinators are very important, not only to agriculture, but also to the gardens and landscapes that people enjoy in both urban and rural environments. Over the last several years, many steps have been taken to protect pollinators at the state and federal level. The product labels are more restrictive, and Oregon is a leader in pollinator education through Oregon State University Extension. If pesticides are used as required by the product directions, the risks to pollinators are significantly reduced. It is not necessary to put such severe restrictions on this entire class of chemicals when other ways of addressing pollinator health are working.

Please join me in opposing HB 3058 and SB 853 to maintain current pest control tools and protect Oregon crops.

Sincerely,

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