



**TO: Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair Environment & Natural Resources  
Members of the Committee**

**FR: Jim Fitzgerald  
Far West Agribusiness Association**

**RE: Urge Your 'NO' Vote on SB 853**

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Far West Agribusiness Association is a 60 year-old-regional trade association with over 100 businesses which are retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and custom applicators who provide crop inputs and agronomic services to farmers.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify as **opposed to SB 853**. We oppose the prohibition of the sale of chlorpyrifos in the state. The extensive scientific database used for regulatory purposes globally does not support these actions and believe they will negatively impact Oregon growers that rely on chlorpyrifos to produce important crops.

Chlorpyrifos is authorized for use in 79 countries, including the United States. Labeled uses rest on five decades of experience in use, health surveillance of manufacturing workers and applicators, and more than 4,000 studies and reports examining the product in terms of health, safety and the environment. No pest control product has been more thoroughly evaluated. We continue to support farmers who rely on this important crop protection tool.

Numerous health organizations, including the World Health Organization and Health Canada, have determined a safe dose of chlorpyrifos which is consistent with the registration requirements of EPA. The label is the law when it comes to applications so it is unlawful to apply any crop protection product at rates not within the approved. EPA registration.

The public already has a choice and if they so desire, can buy organic but they must weigh the potential ill effects of insect contamination.

Neonicotinoids (neonic' s) are a group of pesticides that are widely used in agriculture to protect crops from various insects. They are also used for other purposes, including killing insects in homes, controlling fleas on pets, and protecting trees from invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash borer.

In agriculture, neonics are an essential pesticide for seed treatment. No-till farming has become commonplace for its soil, water and erosion benefits but because of the residue, soils are cooler and germination takes longer. This gives insects a greater window of opportunity to inhibit germination which results in a poor or minimal plant population and is detrimental to agricultural production in Oregon. When used as a seed treatment and the seed is buried within the soil, it is not in contact with the environment or other non-targeted insects. This serves as an example of why a band on neonocs would be a bad policy and we urge your opposition and a **NO vote for SB 853**.