

## Watts Remy

---

**From:** Matt Hutchinson <bvcd@thegeo.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 3058 & SB 853 - maintain our pest management tools

Dear Chair Dembrow,

As the Manager of Baker Valley Vector Control District, and the President of Oregon Mosquito and Vector Control Association, my colleagues and myself are in opposition of HB 3058 and SB 853. Pest control professionals and farmers already face heavy pesticide regulations and limited options to control pests and vectors that present dangers to the public. Banning and removing pesticides from a users already limited toolbox sets a dangerous precedence. We must rely on science experts and regulators at our state and federal agencies like the EPA and Department of Agriculture to make these decisions, and not allow legislators to make pesticide use decisions product-by-product.

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,

Matt Hutchinson  
PO Box 585  
Baker City, OR 97814  
bvcd@thegeo.net