

## Angel Torres Testimony on SB 853

My name is Angel Torres and I am a Crop Advisor/agronomist in Salem, Oregon, and the surrounding area. I graduated with a degree in Crop & Soil Science with the option in Agronomy from Oregon State University and have been engaged with research both at Oregon State University with the Department of Animal and Rangeland Sciences and at Michigan State University at the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences. My job is to give growers advice on how to raise successful crops which includes informing and recommending the proper use of various pesticides to treat undesirable insects, weeds, diseases and more. One of our tools is Chlorpyrifos.

I was raised in an agriculture community and family in Albany. I am not a farmer, but at the early age of 14, I started working in many of the crops that are being listed that are treated with Chlorpyrifos. I have spent many long hours working in fields that are farmed conventionally with various pesticide tools. I can speak for our field workers that farmers are diligent about ensuring the safety of their workers and surrounding communities. As crop advisors, we ensure that the applicator and farmer know the federal standards, laws, and regulations of using a product, although it ultimately falls on the applicator to follow labeled uses, by law as Oregon licensed advisors, we recommend and give advice strictly and only on labeled uses. An example directly related to this is giving the re-entry Interval (REI) for any product that the label requires us to follow which limits the exposure and risk of a pesticide. As crop advisors, we value and respect the importance of having tools such as chlorpyrifos. Even more importantly we rely heavily on the Lorsban Advanced Insecticide that gives us 6 Section 24(c) Special Local Needs labels, and 2 Special 2(ee) recommendations in Oregon:

24(c):

1. For Control of Garden Symphylans in Table and Sugarbeets or Swiss Chard Grown for Seed
2. For Control of Insects Infesting Perennial Grass Grown for Seed
3. For Control of Various Insects Infesting Clover Grown for Seed
4. For Control of Cutworms and Lygus Infesting Carrots Grown for Seed
5. For Control of Cutworms Infesting Radish Grown for Seed
6. For Control of Various Insects infesting Cottonwood/Poplar Grow for Pulp or Wood

2(ee):

1. For Control of Flatheaded Borer in Filbert
2. For control of Root Maggots, Cutworms, Symphylans, Billbugs, Wireworms, Grubs in Veg

I would like to speak for one of the many important uses that the labeled use of chlorpyrifos has. For the early part of my career, I have worked for 7 years in the hazelnut industry. I have seen how devastating certain pests and disease outbreaks can have on our

food supply including our state nut that was declared by our own legislatures in 1989. One of those pests is the Pacific flatheaded borer. The Pacific flatheaded borer (*Chrysobothris mali*) is a Coleoptera that attacks weak or declining hazelnut (filbert) trees in Oregon. Oregon produces over 99% of the nation's hazelnuts. Not treating this pest would be devastating to our industry. Taking just one of the incredibly few tools to combat such pest would cripple our growers' ability to fight this pest. When used in full compliance with labeled guidelines, chlorpyrifos has been proven very effective and safe to use on the flat-headed borer. Oregon State University Extension Service has done research on its effectiveness. Not is it only effective on flat headed borer in hazelnuts but it is also an important tool in many important crops of Oregon.

Using common sense, sound agronomic practices, following federal and state regulations, and using integrated pest management strategies, as a crop advisor, removing chlorpyrifos would negatively affect our ability to combat already hard to control pests. I urge our legislators to read and understand product labels before making misinformed decisions. I truly believe our consumers should have the fullest transparency of our practices, but they shall not be guided by misinformation and fear tactics. Having a misinformed society limiting our ability to feed our growing population is truly worrisome. **I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 3058.**

Angel Torres  
Crop Advisor  
Albany, OR