

March 25, 2019

Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senators:

HM.Clause, Inc. is a global vegetable seed company which sells seed to growers in Oregon. We are in opposition to Senate Bill 853, and respectfully submit this letter for the Senate Committee hearing record on Tuesday, March 26.

If passed and signed into Law, Senate Bill 853 would ban the sale, purchase or use of chlorpyrifos, and products containing chlorpyrifos, in the state of Oregon. Chlorpyrifos (also known as Lorsban) is an important pest product used on many crops produced in the state of Oregon. It has been used very successfully for many years to control insect pests such as seed corn maggot and seed corn beetle that cause significant damage to planted seeds. Our customers purchase vegetable seeds with Lorsban included in the seed treatment mix. Losing this effective pest management tool would be bad for Oregon producers as there is a limited number of registered products available for use. Currently as far as we know, chlorpyrifos is the only contact insecticide available for those crops as a part of a seed treatment. Removing this product from Oregon crop production would allow for a competitive and unfair advantage in favor of non-Oregon producers who continue to use this product.


Senate Bill 853 also designates pesticides classified as neonicotinoids as a restricted-use. The new designation would mean that Oregon producers would have to obtain a pesticide applicator license to purchase and use neonicotinoid products on their crops. Therefore, the new designation imposes a burden on Oregon who would have to acquire a license to apply a product they are already using and authorized to apply without a license.

On a broader scale, our Industry is concerned about losing a product that has a 40-year history of success. More than 4,000 studies and reports have been done on this product and it is still registered for use by the EPA. We are even more concerned that instead of depending upon our state and federal agencies to make the decisions to ban certain pesticide products based on scientific data this Legislation sets a precedent for any legislative action to dictate what growers can and cannot use to protect their crops from insects and other pests.

We ask for your vote in opposition to Senate Bill 853. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

HM.CLAUSE, Inc.

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