

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Kent Burkholder <kntbrkhdr@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 8:44 PM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** SB 853

Dear Chairman Dembrow and committee:

I am a fifth generation grass seed farmer from Albany. I am urging you to NOT support senate bill 853. I have some major concerns, especially with the proposed ban on chlorpyrifos.

We currently use chlorpyrifos rather sparingly but we do use some each year. When we can use something else, usually something that is more pest specific, that is usually what we do. There are some pests that just don't respond very well or have gained resistance to some of the more pest specific insecticides. In a lot of cases chlorpyrifos will be able to take care of them. Another instance is that some pests spend very little time above ground and when they are above ground there is only a very small percentage of them that are above ground at the same time. It is very important that we have something like chlorpyrifos that we can spray in the rain and have it rained in to the soil to help control those pests. A lot of the more pest specific insecticides are contact only.

Another issue we have Oregon agriculture is that we have a lot of diversity in our cropping systems. On our farm we currently have 7 different types of crops. There are somewhere around 220 different commodities raised in Oregon and almost all of them are considered minor. What that means for us is that chemical companies do not spend much money developing chemicals for crops that we raise. Most of what we have to use is something that was developed for some other major crop i.e. corn and soybeans. If we lose chlorpyrifos it is unlikely that anyone will develop something specific for us to step in its place. We will, guaranteed, be forced to apply more product and apply those products more frequently to try and control pests that chlorpyrifos currently controls for us. In short, that will cost us, as farmers, more money. It will also increase the potential for impact to the public as well as result in more chemicals being sprayed more often, not because we want to but because we have to. Trust me, I really don't enjoy spraying but it is something we must do sometimes in order to raise the best crop we can. The inputs are all the same in raising our crops and if we can't control what is eating up the crop, so to speak, it sometimes is the difference of finishing the year with a profit or a loss.

I believe it is important to use science in determining how we regulate pesticides. Chlorpyrifos is safe when used according to the label, it has endured countless research and trials to determine if it is safe to use. If there was any question of its safety when it was researched and the trials it was in there would have never been a label issued in the first place. ODA has the tools, training and expertise to determine if the chemical was used irresponsibly or off the label. It can also test if there was any illegal drift from the application. If it determines there was something done illegally or off label it can and does enforce and fine the violators.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

And again I ask that you NOT support this bill. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want clarification on anything ag, I will help you if I can.

Sincerely, Kent Burkholder  
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