

March 26, 2019

Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Dear Committee Members;

I am writing concerning SB 853 which is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee. I have been an agricultural advisor for almost 30 years. My degree is through Oregon State University in the schools of Agriculture and Education. Having been involved in agriculture all my life, I have a pretty good understanding of our practices and science. Being the son of a retired University Extension Agent and former legislator, I have witnessed and been involved in the political process as well. I have used and sold many gallons and pounds of products containing chlorpyrifos which this bill, SB 853 proposes to ban. I have the same experience with neonicotinoid insecticides. When labels are properly followed, both products are great tools for our use in the production of food and fiber. When people die or are injured in auto accidents due to not wearing their seatbelts, we don't ban cars. We have laws, regulation and education in place to help prevent these things from happening.

I am concerned when the legislature takes it upon themselves to take the authority to ban products based on what some people want that is not supported by good science. What is the purpose of having state and federal regulators if the legislature is going to impose their will on our people and our industries that provide for our food and fiber? Is it the legislatures responsibility with their limited knowledge to make decisions on every product used in our state?

The diversity of Oregon agriculture is possible because of the great conditions we have for growing so many crops but it is not easy because all our crops are considered "minor crops." We must rely on many local needs approved labels for products that we are able to get from manufacturers only because they have developed them for the "major crops". Our tools for pest control, including weeds, insects, disease, rodents, mollusks, etc. are limited and the products that are addressed in this proposed legislation add another large challenge to an industry constantly being scrutinized for just about everything involved in producing food and fiber.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Bob Schroeder

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