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**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,  
March 26, 2019  
HB 2980**

We submit this testimony on behalf of our members and clients. The undersigned are a group of diverse organizations that focus on workers' rights.

In 1999, the Oregon Legislature authorized the Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS). HB 2980 will extend its sunset date.

There are an estimated 5.1 billion pounds of pesticides applied to crops each year, putting communities at risk. Farmworkers are at the greatest risk of exposure. Thousands of farmworkers experience the effects of acute pesticide poisoning, including headaches, nausea, shortness of breath, or seizures. Pesticide exposure leads to chronic health problems, such as cancer, infertility (and other reproductive problems), neurological disorders, and respiratory conditions.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of reports of pesticide use in Oregon are filed on PURS. Agricultural use represents more than 75% of all reports. The data collected on PURS provides farmworkers with information to understand their exposure to pesticides and healthcare providers with the information they need to diagnose and treat pesticide illness when it does occur. This is an important tool that protects the health of Oregon's farmworkers. We should continue to make it a priority.

We urge you to support this bill to protect Oregon's farmworkers.

Thank you,

Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers

Communication Workers of America, Local 7901

Portland Jobs with Justice

Northwest Forest Worker Center

Northwest Workers' Justice Project