



Oregon Seed Association Opposes SB 853

Responsible use of pesticides is needed to stay competitive in a global market

The Oregon Seed Association (OSA) is a non-profit agricultural trade association representing the interests of Oregon's world-renowned seed industry. With a demand from overseas markets, Oregon developed a thriving seed industry that has remained a viable part of the state's economy for over 90 years. OSA was organized in 1969 and includes members that vary in size from small seed dealers to some of the largest in the world.

Members of the OSA spend close to \$11 million annually developing new varieties for the domestic and world market. This research and development is focused on environmental characteristics, such as drought, shade, and disease resistance. OSA members distribute Oregon-grown grass and specialty seeds to more than 50 countries on six continents, contributing to \$180 million in international trade.

In order to remain competitive in the growing global market, seed coming from Oregon must meet strong phytosanitary requirements to enter many of the foreign markets to which we export. The use of neonicotinoids by commercial application ensures that we can meet the demands of these strong standards in the world market. SB 853 has the potential to vastly harm our ability to compete globally by limiting the products available for our use. As an alternative, however, requiring that anyone using a product with neonicotinoids must obtain a license for restricted use pesticides will ensure that they are used properly.

Of equal importance to specialty seed growers is the need of chlorpyrifos for the use in production of crops to ward off pests that potentially can destroy entire crops. Currently, there are some alternatives to treat for some of these pests, but the cost is a minimum of \$100 per acre, which cuts into profit margins and limits our ability to compete on the global market.

Bees and other pollinators are very, very important to the production of our seed and food crops. As an industry, we take it very seriously that they should be protected through the proper use of pesticides. We understand the need for responsible stewardship when using pesticides and would ask that the state look at ways to inform and educate rather than ban and restrict products that are vital to the production of Oregon's agricultural crops.

Thank you,

Jake Stockfleth
President
Oregon Seed Association