

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Agricultural and Land Use,

I am submitting this Public Testimony in support HB 3058 which will ban the purchase, sale and use of Chlorpyrifos. This bill also lists Neonicotinoids as Restricted Use Pesticides.

As an alumni of OSU who has studied Entomology, Horticulture and holds a B.S in Soil Science, I urge you to consider this very important Bill. My work is as a landscape gardener in Southern Oregon. With this work comes the important task of not only protecting the land I work on, but also the humans, animals and who live upon the land. With my years of studying science I have chosen to work directly with plants, soils and insects, birds and water. I have also chosen to do this work, successfully, without the use of toxic chemicals. The work other scientists have chosen to do in laboratories is very important; the studies being carried out on the harmful effects of the pesticide Chlorpyrifos and Neonicotinoids should be taken seriously by all. It is time to consider the true costs of applying poisons into the environment. Countless times I have observed people in garden stores who are in the pesticide aisle trying to decide what to buy. I am not certain what prompts them to choose one product over another, but it is similar to observing someone shopping for a product they know nothing about, but might just be guided by packaging. The problem here is this: these products are POISONS. They have consequences far reaching that affect the health and well being of all life. These products can, will, and HAVE polluted waterways, human bodies, insects, and soil. I have studied pesticide warning labels so I know what those warnings mean. I do not think most of the general public buying products which contain Chlorpyrifos or Neonicotinoids have a clue what they are purchasing. Even if a purchaser could read the fine print, I strongly believe they are not aware that the product they hold in their hand can and will reach far and wide away from their target pest. This is not the fault of the consumer. The general public has the faith in their Government to PROTECT them from toxic chemicals. REGULATION is key. There is NO QUESTION about this; we should not be leaving such important decisions up to homeowners to make.

Beyond the the common use of Chlorpyrifos and Neonicotinoids by the general public, the use of these chemicals by trained professionals on school grounds and in children's parks is not only irresponsible but dangerous. Here we have people who are trained to know how to read and understand the warning labels on pesticide containers, AND who will willingly apply these chemicals where people, children, play!

These chemicals are found in residual amounts on fruits and vegetables as a result of being used on crops by farmers. Farm workers who work in the fields are exposed to these toxic poisons.

Entomology labs doing studies on different families of insects have determined that these chemicals are having an alarming effect on insect populations. Insects we rely on for pollination and as well as other integral benefits in agriculture.

I urge you to let common sense as well as the scientific studies guide you in making responsible decisions about how Oregon moves forward with pesticide reform.

Sincerley,
Kate Taormina
Takilma, Oregon