Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use in Support of on HB 3058 and SB 853
By Ramon Ramirez, PCUN

March 26, 2019

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I wish to express our full support for HB 3058 and SB 853, which would ban the use of the Pesticide Chlorpyrifos in Oregon.

Chlorpyrifos is a toxic, nerve agent pesticide proven to cause brain damage in children and pregnant women. **It is also known to** harm the environment and wildlife.[i] [ii] **People come in contact with the chemical through residues on food, and toxic drift from pesticide application.**[iii] It is particularly unsafe for babies, children and pregnant women. There is a clear link between early life exposure to chlorpyrifos and autism and ADHD.[iv] A 2019 study by Friends of the Earth found concerning levels of chlorpyrifos in everyday foods purchased in Oregon markets such as cereals, beans and applesauce. Chlorpyrifos was banned for home use in 2001, due to its impact on children's developing brains.[v]

Along with Earth Justice, PCUN sued the EPA back in 2018 to ban chlorpyrifos completely. In August of 2018, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ordered the EPA to enact its earlier decision to ban Chlorpyrifos nationwide. However, the Trump administration appealed that decision to the full membership of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Those proceedings are just starting, now as a matter of fact. We don't know when that court will issue its opinion. Should the 9th Circuit uphold its original order, the Trump Administration will likely appeal that decision to the United States Supreme Court. That Court could certainly stay the opinion of the 9th Circuit or overturn it, and there's no way to know how long such a decision could take. Meanwhile there is a need for state action. Hawaii for example, banned Chlorpyrifos in June of 2018.

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[i] Eng, Margaret L., et al. "Imidacloprid and Chlorpyrifos Insecticides Impair Migratory Ability in a Seed-Eating Songbird." *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 9 Nov. 2017, www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-15446-x

[ii] Sunanda, M. "Effects of Chlorpyrifos (an Organophosphate Pesticide) in Fish." *Https://Www.researchgate.net*, International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences Review and Research, 30 June 2016, www.researchgate.net/profile/Chandra_Sekhara_Rao_Jammu2/publication/305816281_Effects_of_Chlorpyrifos_an_Organophosphate_Pesticide_in_Fish/links/57a3379408ae2ae05733444b.pdf

[iii] "EP*A's 2014 revised human health risk assessment showed the potential for risks in small watersheds with high concentrations of farming where chlorpyrifos may be widely used. The 2014 assessment included a refined drinking water assessment for the Pacific Northwest and the Southeast, but not the entire country. EPA determined that safe levels of chlorpyrifos may be exceeded for people whose drinking water is derived from certain vulnerable watersheds in parts of the United States*." EPA Proposal to Revoke Chlorpyrifos Food Residue Tolerances. Accessed on 3/22/2019 at **https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/proposal-revoke-chlorpyrifos-food-residue-tolerances_.html#revoke**

[iv] Lan, Anat, et al. "Prenatal Chlorpyrifos Leads to Autism-like Deficits in C57Bl6/J Mice." *Environmental Health : a Global Access Science Source*, BioMed Central, 2 May 2017, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5414283/

[v] EPA Actions and Regulatory History (Year 2000) https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/chlorpyrifos