From: Lucas Rue
To: Exhibits HAGLU
Subject: Please Oppose HB 3058 & SB 853 - maintain our pest management tools
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:40:08 AM

Dear Chair Clem,

My name is Lucas Rue and I am part of our family's 2,000 acres grass seed farm just outside of Silverton, OR. We use chlorpyrifos on an annual basis in order to protect our crops from wire worms and sod web worms, two soil-bound creatures that have the ability to multiply quickly and destroy our crops if not controlled. Chlorpyifos is currently the only tool we have that controls insects that live in the soil, and if it is lost then we could potentially lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in crop revenue each year. If you know agriculture, then you're aware of the already challenging cash flow cycle. Removing chlorpyrifos from our management program will significantly decrease our profitability and could ultimately put us and other farms out of business. Grass seed is one of Oregon's top 5 commodities raising over $450 million in revenue annually. Please help protect Oregon agriculture and continue to allow the use of chlorypyrifos in our state. Thank you.

HB 3058 and SB 853 are unnecessarily banning chlorpyrifos which will remove this valuable pest management tool from Oregon's farmers. Chlorpyrifos has been used in cropping systems for over 4 decades, is authorized for use in nearly 100 countries and is labelled for use on more than 50 agricultural crops. These bills put Oregon growers, who must compete in the interstate and international markets, at a significant disadvantage.

Oregon farmers grow over 225 different crops, and chlorpyrifos is a vital tool on specialty crops when there is no alternative pesticide available. Keeping this tool available is critical to controlling crop-damaging insects in Oregon's Christmas trees, vegetables, mint, and many of our crops grown for seed such as clover, radish, and perennial grass.

HB 3058 and SB 853 also unnecessarily classifies all neonicotinoid products as Restricted Use in Oregon. In order to be classified as GENERAL USE by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, these products are required to clearly demonstrate their safety to mammals and birds. Oregon does not have any data that justifies limiting these products to licensed pesticide applicators only. Neonicotinoid products (over 625 registered in Oregon) are currently available to any user including farmers and homeowners. Neonicotinoids have been extremely valuable in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems to allow selectivity in controlling harmful pests while allowing beneficial insects to thrive.

Honey bees and other pollinators are very important, not only to agriculture, but also to the gardens and landscapes that people enjoy in both urban and rural environments. Over the last several years, many steps have been taken to protect pollinators at the state and federal level. The product labels are more restrictive, and Oregon is a leader in pollinator education through Oregon State University Extension. If pesticides are used as required by the product directions, the risks to pollinators are significantly reduced. It is not necessary to put such severe restrictions on this entire class of chemicals when other ways of addressing pollinator health are working.

Please join me in opposing HB 3058 and SB 853 to maintain current pest control tools and protect Oregon crops.

Sincerely,

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