

HB 2980 Please Renew Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) 3-26-19

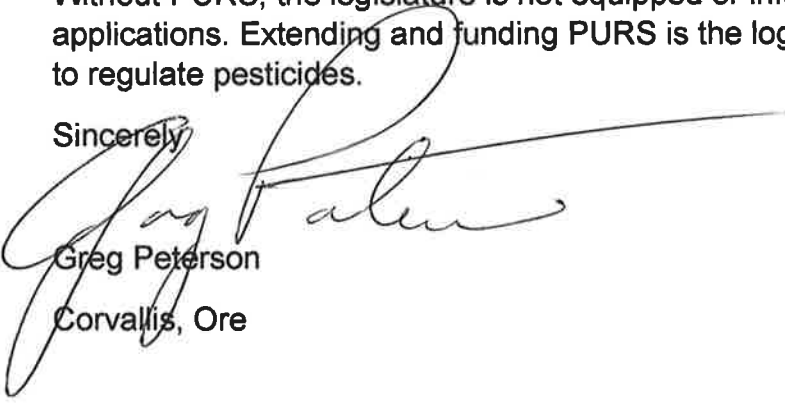
I urge legislators to look closely at the benefits of reinstating and funding Oregon's Pesticide Use Reporting System ("PURS"), which is set to sunset in 2019. PURS allows Oregon Department of Agriculture to collect specific data on businesses and government entities use of pesticides, including private land, government land, and areas where the public has access. The PURS program is the result of significant legislative consensus 20 years ago, protects confidential data and provides the state with data to understand how registered pesticides are used throughout Oregon. Unfortunately, the program was only funded for a brief period in around 2008, and as a licensed applicator, that it is absolutely vital to retain science-based management of pesticides.

Without reinstating the PURS program, legislative decisions regarding pesticide restrictions are premature. I encourage the legislature to prioritize the PURS system and avoid difficult technical or policy decisions on pesticides without leveraging our existing infrastructure for monitoring and analyzing pesticide use throughout the state.

HB 2980 proposes a ten-year extension of PURS, as long as the reporting elements and 50/50 split of funding remained the same. Additional conversations regarding funding, both from registration fees and the general fund can lead to Oregon having a renewed understanding of pesticide use.

Without PURS, the legislature is not equipped or informed to make technical decisions about individual applications. Extending and funding PURS is the logical first step before any renewed legislative efforts to regulate pesticides.

Sincerely



Greg Peterson
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