

Watts Remy

From: Denver Pugh <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 3:22 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Oppose HB 3058 and SB 853

Dear Chair Dembrow,

My name is Denver Pugh, I am a sixth generation farmer in the Shedd area where my family and I farm over 8 different species of crops for seed.

Diversification of crops we grow on my family's farm has been a key to my farms survival, basically not putting all my eggs in one basket, so to speak. Diversifying my crops is beneficial in many ways, one of which is to be able to diversify in my pesticide treatments to keep me away from unwanted pest and diseases. Banning chlorpyrifos would be taking away one of the much needed tools I have to fight certain pests. I understand that there are other chemical chemistries such as the neonicotinoids that you may think could replace chlorpyrifos but in reality they only work on certain insect pests, they are not a broad spectrum chemistry like chlorpyrifos. And when you limit the variety of tools I have to use is when you increase the risk of creating resistance. It is the need to allow myself and others for this variation of resources to be available so we don't create a pest we can not control.

To register and make legal any chemical with the EPA is extremely costly and time consuming. By creating an outright ban on the sale and usage of chlorpyrifos in the state of Oregon would mean that you do not believe in all the science, research, and facts collected to bring this chemical to a legal registration here in Oregon.

Further more, I understand wanting to protect beneficial insects, such as bees and other pollinators. Like I stated earlier, I grow a diversity of crops, of which at least three of them need to be bee pollinated. Like most my neighbor farmers who raise crops that need to be bee pollinated, we are very cautious not to misapply our chemicals. We need that symbiotic relationship and we go to the extremes to maintain it. Personally I am in constant contact with my bee keeper on timing of hive placement and my spraying. I, along with most my neighbors, spray at night when the bees are safely in their hives is a standard practice as well.

I urge you not to overlook the science and please do not take away a much needed tool for my farm and others like mine.

Sincerely,

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