



My name is Michelle Armstrong-Zielinski I strongly oppose SB853, I have worked as an agronomist for 15 years, sit as the current Vice-Chairman of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission, a licensed pesticide consultant, my husband and I farm 200-acre and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer. Growing up on a small family dairy farm I learned early on the value of teamwork, hard work, the ability to adapt and the benefits of having the right tools to do the job.

Fighting pests is a multi-faceted process called Integrated Pest Management (IPM), having many tools available to all growers is key for farmers to keep their crops and their families lively hood going. A pest is a natural disaster with the ability to wipe out an entire crop and potentially that years profit in a matter of days, limiting the ability for them to care for their families, their employees and their employee's families. If they do not have the right options, it would be no different then fighting a grease fire with water; some things just will not work.

Farmers work with agronomist to create an IPM program to avoid overuse of any given product and prevent resistance by the pest as well as making sure what they are using is safe for the area it will be applied to. These programs include beneficial bugs, cultural practices, and all products available both organic and conventional. We read the labels and often use a recommendation program to be sure all warnings are given to the farmer to keep not only the employees and bees safe but the environment around them as well.

As you will see on the labels provided to you, on products that have any environmental warning there is a special section dedicated to warning the farmer and the agronomist of the dangers. It is the law to read the label and we take the responsibility to care for the land and pollinators to heart. When used properly I have not seen neonicotinoids harm to bees in the all the years I have been in the industry. When we have products that have extreme toxicity to bees manufactures have provide another special section on the label known as the "**Bee Box**". This takes up a large section on a label, often multiple pages, along with a reminder to the user at each crop section that it needs to be looked at before applications are made. Farmers adapt to new methods and tools when they are available, which can take 10 years or more to move new chemistries through the process. They are rapidly implementing cover cropping as a standard part of their operations which helps keeps the soils and products applied in the field area in which the application took place.



I have provided to you a list of use for Neonicotinoids and Chlorpyrifos in the state of Oregon along with which ones are considered critical uses of those products. Those have been deemed critical uses due to the lack of multiple tools to control those pests and the loss of any products to do so could mean crop loss and resistance to other available options. Currently we are seeing a resistance to the organic insecticide Spinosad with Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), a pest that lays its eggs in ripening fruit and larvae than feeds on the fruit as it matures, this has occurred due to the fact that we have very limited effective chemistries to SWD in organic production.

Over the years Oregon has chosen to simply regulate alcohol and marijuana that cause neurological damage rather than banning them, in the case of marijuana even legalizing it for wide spread use. Why does legislation look to ban some things but not others?

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Michelle Armstrong-Zielinski