

Dear Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

To members of the Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources:

SB 853, a bill to prohibit the sale, purchase or use of the organophosphate pesticide, chlorpyrifos, places neonicotinoid pesticides on list of restricted-use pesticides in Oregon, amends the pesticide product registration fee provision and reduces the maximum fee for certain occupational licenses related to pesticides. will be heard before your committee.

The science is solid: Chlorpyrifos is a highly toxic pesticide known to permanently damage children's developing brain. In 2016, after years of study, the US EPA found that chlorpyrifos is unsafe at any detectable level and recommended a nationwide ban.

Also, neonicotinoids (neonics) are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic pesticides that persist in the environment many years after their application and are highly toxic to bees, beneficial insects, fish and birds. Even years after an application, neonicotinoids can kill bees outright or damage their ability to forage for food or find their way back to their hive.

Chlorpyrifos is linked to permanent IQ loss and a host of neurological harms. Despite EPA's decision to ban chlorpyrifos in 2016, the Trump Administration reversed the proposed ban in 2017. States must take action on chlorpyrifos because the EPA has failed to protect the public. This year, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to pass a ban on chlorpyrifos. Oregon should follow suit without delay.

In addition, neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides, indiscriminately kills all insects and aquatic invertebrates, and other beneficial insects that support ecosystems. Neonics also impact our ability to grow healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods because they are so long-lived in the environment and cannot be washed off fruits and vegetables.

I urge you to support this bill and see it through passage from your committee and on to the full Senate.

Thank you.

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