

Dear Chair Holvey,

Banning the use of chlorpyrifos is unnecessary. Oregon has some of the nation's toughest pesticide use restrictions and regulations. We have a vigilant, strong Department of Agriculture that strictly enforces those pesticide laws. Moreover, Oregon is the only state in the nation with a multi-agency investigatory/oversight group known as Pesticides Analytical Response Center(PARC). Created over 40 years ago, PARC ensures that pesticides are being used safely while protecting our environment and citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Oregon's family farms and the heart of our great state.

HB 2619 attempts to unnecessarily ban chlorpyrifos, which would 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.

There are federal actions taking place on the product. On April 19, 2019, the 9th Circuit mandated EPA to provide justification of decisions on chlorpyrifos. EPA has 90 days to respond to this court demand. Additionally, EPA is conducting an ongoing registration review and will complete their assessment by the deadline of October 1, 2022. The supporting science of chlorpyrifos covers over 45 years of research and EPA has produced a vast collection of science-related documents to support national and international pesticide registration decisions.

Please allow the federal legal and regulatory to progress and not make an uninformed decision at the state level to ban this much needed pesticide.

Sincerely,

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