



OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214

PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281

OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG

WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

To: Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter

Date: May 8, 2019

RE: House Bill 2619

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of House Bill 2619.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect public health and wildlife in Oregon, we believe the common-sense protections of House Bill 2619 are worthy of your support. As you know, HB 2619 would prohibit the use and sale of the insecticide *chlorpyrifos* in Oregon. Chlorpyrifos is a highly toxic organophosphate insecticide that is used on a wide variety of crops, putting farmworkers and fish and wildlife at risk.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency had undertaken an effort to ban chlorpyrifos use on food crops several years ago, but abandoned that work under pressure from chemical companies. Though the EPA acknowledged the devastating effects the chemical is likely to have on endangered fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants, there seems to be no further action planned at the federal level. Now it is time for Oregon to step up and ban this highly toxic insecticide.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club strongly supports House Bill 2619 and we urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please let me know if I may be of any further assistance to the committee.