Please enter into the record the attached documents with signatures of Oregon residents signing onto the letter below in support of HB 2619-1, to ban the use of chlorpyrifos in the state of Oregon.

We the undersigned rural Oregonians from Southern Oregon, support HB 2619-1, a bill in the Oregon legislature that would ban the use of chlorpyrifos, a toxic nerve agent pesticide proven to cause brain damage in children, contaminate waterways and harm pollinators and other wildlife.

## BAN CHLORPYRIFOS IN OREGON

For 50 years chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide, has been damaging children's brains, harming farmworkers and contaminating our food. Chlorpyrifos were originally developed for warfare in Nazi Germany in the 1940's. After the war chlorpyrifos were repurposed as an insecticide by chemical corporations. They continue to be toxic to people. RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES ARE AT HIGHEST RISK OF EXPOSURE.

In 2016, after years of study, the US EPA found that children face an unacceptable risk of permanent brain damage from exposure to chlorpyrifos, and recommended a nationwide ban. The Trump Administration reversed the proposed ban in 2017. In addition, the EPA was ordered by federal courts to ban this dangerous pesticide from use on food crops. Ignoring the Court order, the Trump Administration continues to stall and obstruct the longstanding research and EPA action protect children from chlorpyrifos.

Oregon should take the strongest possible action to protect farm workers, children and the safety of our food with a statewide ban on chlorpyrifos. Hawaii has already banned chlorpyrifos and other states are taking action as well.

## KEY REASONS TO TAKE ACTION NOW IN OREGON!

• After years of study, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that chlorpyrifos is unsafe at any detectable level.

- Children are especially susceptible to exposure from drift and residues in food and water, resulting in brain damage and developmental disabilities.
- Farm workers and rural communities are at highest risk of exposure from drift.
- Chlorpyrifos is found in common family foods like apples, applesauce and cereals, sometimes at unsafe levels for children.
- There is no safe level of chlorpyrifos in drinking water.
- Communities are exposed to drift from nearby fields and golf courses in their homes, schools and outdoor areas.
- Chlorpyrifos is extremely deadly to birds, fish and beneficial insects such as bees.
- Chlorpyrifos is particularly dangerous for pregnant women because of their toxicity to the developing infant.
- There are many safer methods of pest control than using a neurotoxin developed in Nazi Germany to kill soldiers. Chlorpyrifos are outdated and have no place in modern agriculture.

Thank you. *Kristina Lefever* Pollinator Project Rogue Valley

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