



May 8th, 2019

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I wish to express our full support for HB 2619A, which would ban the use of the pesticide **Chlorpyrifos** in Oregon.

Farmworkers, tree planters and their families are the backbone of the 8 billion agricultural and reforestation industries in Oregon. Farmworker who toil the land to put food on the American table do backbreaking work while working with dangerous chemicals such as **Chlorpyrifos**.

It is no coincidence that the life expediency for farmworkers is 49 years of age compared to 78 years of age for the general population. Farmworkers experience 25% more cancer rate, and miscarriages among farmworker women in the county is 50% higher.

According to the GAO, the investigative arm of the US congress, states that over 300,000 farmworker are poison by pesticides.

Chlorpyrifos is a toxic, nerve agent pesticide proven to cause brain damage in children and pregnant women. It is also known to harm the environment and wildlife. People come in contact with the chemical through residues on food, and drift from pesticide application.

Along with EarthJustice, PCUN sued the EPA back in 2018 to ban **Chlorpyrifos** completely. The EPA was scheduled to ban Chlorpyrifos toward the end of the Obama administration due to the their conclusion that **all** uses of chlorpyrifos result in unsafe levels of exposure to people who handle chlorpyrifos and people who work in the areas where it is applied. This includes **all** uses on Christmas trees, which continue to pose risks of concern to workers 30 days after treatment.¹² In August of 2018, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ordered the EPA to enact its earlier decision to ban Chlorpyrifos nationwide.

However, the Trump administration appealed that decision to the full membership of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Recently, the 9th Circuit

¹ US EPA, Appendix E: Occupational Handler Exposure and Risk Estimates (2016), <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0653-0453> (accessed April 29, 2019).
² US EPA, Appendix F: Occupational Post-Application Dermal Exposure and Risk Estimates (2016), <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0653-0453> (accessed April 29, 2019).

Court has given the EPA 90 days to justify use of Chlorpyrifos.³ Meanwhile there is a need for state action to protect the thousands of farmworkers and children who continue to be exposed to this deadly pesticide.

I urge today to please vote yes on HB 2619A. Thank you for your time.

Martha Sonato
Political Director, PCUN

³ <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/04/19/chlorpyrifos-pesticide-9th-circuit-court-epa-90-days/>