From: marksiemens@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Siemens
To: HHC Exhibits
Subject: Protect our children and pollinators by supporting HB 3058 and SB 853!
Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020 12:06:29 PM

Dear Oregon Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to urge your strong support of HB 4109, phasing out chlorpyrifos in Oregon, and ask that you vote HB 4109 out of your committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

The science on chlorpyrifos is crystal clear: chlorpyrifos is known to harm kids' brains. Chlorpyrifos is linked to infertility, diabetes, respiratory diseases, developmental disorders, and more. Created as a chemical weapon in WWII, this old chemistry is outdated and dangerous, as recognized by EPA in 2015-2016, Hawaii, California, New York, and the European Union.

In the face of federal inaction, Oregon needs to act urgently to protect human and environmental health from this unsafe and unnecessary pesticide. HB4109 will immediately end the aerial spraying of chlorpyrifos in Oregon, protecting children by prohibiting chlorpyrifos use within 300 feet of schools, and adding stronger protections for farmworkers. HB4109 includes a phase out period to give farmers time to adjust to the many alternative options, just like farmers in Hawaii and California. A phase-out will not only protect kids and farmworkers, it will benefit pollinators and other wildlife also exposed to the toxic pesticide, and encourage safer alternatives that promote healthy soils.

It is my strong belief that chlorpyrifos has no place in Oregon. Thank you kindly for considering my testimony in strong support of the measure.

Sincerely,
Mark Siemens
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