



**Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council**

6401 SE Foster ▪ Portland, OR 97206

February 7, 2020

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, members of the committee. My name is Tony Lapid, I am the political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on environmental, racial, and economic justice. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 4109, to phase out the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos.

There is overwhelming evidence of the negative health impacts on people exposed to this chemical. Chlorpyrifos is a chlorinated organophosphate insecticide that was originally developed as a chemical weapon developed in World War II. When exposed to these chemicals people can develop neurological, physical and autoimmune disorders, especially in children. SEIU 503 represents 87,000 Oregonians who care deeply about our state and every single person's right to breath clean air and drink clean water. The presence of Chlorpyrifos is a direct threat to all Oregonian's health, especially those who are working in our agricultural fields.

Because these pesticides are used on agricultural fields where people are working or near schools where children are playing. We support phasing out the use of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos to help protect workers and children from these chemicals, and all Oregonians from the secondary impacts.

Hawaii, New York, and California ban, or are phasing out, the use of Chlorpyrifos and we believe it is time for Oregon to do the same by passing HB 4109.

Thank you for your time today, and for considering this piece of legislation.

Tony Lapid, MPH  
Political & Policy Strategist  
SEIU Local 503