



February 11, 2020

RE: HB 4109

Chair Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee,

On behalf of both the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and the Oregon Conservation Network, please accept this testimony in support of HB 4109. This effort to phase out chlorpyrifos in Oregon is a legacy Priority for a Healthy Oregon for OCN, and was found in three different bills in 2019. I hope committee members will review the extensive testimony found in OLIS from these three bills last session.

- SB 853, which had a public hearing in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 26, 2020.
- HB 3058, which had a public hearing in the House Ag and Land Use Committee, on March 26, 2020.
- HB 2619, which had public hearings in the House Energy and Environment Committee on April 9, 2020 and the House Rules Committee May 8, 2020.

At OLCV, we work to protect Oregon's people, places, and planet. This is a bill that manages to do all of those things. The scientific record is crystal clear that chlorpyrifos is dangerous to people, and much of the record in this House Health Care Committee hearing will address those concerns. In particular, the risks to women and children are high enough to necessitate passage of HB 4109. The fact that these risks disproportionately affect farmworkers, who are disproportionately people of color and immigrants, adds to the urgent need for this bill to pass this session.

This bill, though, also affects places and planet. In a time of climate emergency, with added proven impacts from pollution of all kinds, our natural world is struggling. I've taken two quick passages from the 2019 testimony to highlight for the record on HB 4109. Both of these passages relate to wildlife. While the human health component is of primary importance, the wildlife health component also deserves a place on the record. Human health and the health of our environment are intrinsically linked – especially when it comes to pollinators who help us grow food and fish that we eat.

*“A Biological Evaluation completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, in conjunction with EPA, found that chlorpyrifos is likely to adversely affect **97% of all species listed under the Endangered Species Act.**”*

-Xerces Society Testimony, HB 2619 2019

*Our organizations are concerned about the documented threat chlorpyrifos poses to birds. A biological evaluation produced by the EPA in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service found that chlorpyrifos was “likely to adversely affect” 1778 out of 1835 federally listed fish, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, invertebrate and plant species reviewed. This included 91 out of 108 bird species. Chlorpyrifos can also decimate the food base for birds that eat fish and insects, because it is **one of the most toxic pesticides for aquatic ecosystems**.*

In 2014 a US District Court mandated no-spray buffer zones for certain pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, around waterways to protect endangered or threatened Pacific salmon and steelhead in Oregon, Washington and California. The mandatory no-spray buffer zones for specific salmon or steelhead-bearing streams are 60 feet for ground applications, and 300 feet for aerial applications. However, these buffers for some streams merely indicate the toxicity of chlorpyrifos, but are inadequate to address the full spectrum of harm it causes throughout environmental systems, particularly to birds and the fish and insects they depend on for survival.

-Testimony on SB 2619 from: Oregon Audubon Chapters: Portland Audubon Society, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, Salem Audubon Society, Corvallis Audubon Society, Umpqua Audubon Society, East Cascades Audubon Society, Lane County Audubon Society, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Audubon Society of Lincoln City 10-Mile Creek Sanctuary and the Oregon Audubon Council