

**From:** [Ellie Hilger](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** No on HB 4109 - support the minority report  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:25:24 PM

---

Dear Committee Members,

I am concerned with HB 4109, a ban on Chlorpyrifos, an important pesticide used in farming. What makes me uncomfortable with this bill is that it opens the door to the legislators making pesticide use decision product-by-product instead of relying on the science teams and regulators at our state and federal agencies. The legislature does not have the expertise, and the Health Care Committee didn't even hear from the regulators at the Department of Agriculture, OR-OSHA, or Pesticide Analytical and Response Center about uses of the product in Oregon. I do not like this growing trend of circumventing key departments that have expertise, just to pass a bill through. These departments should be an essential part of the decision making process, since they have the expertise and the "real world" knowledge of farming. Furthermore, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has already initiated rule making to reduce worker exposure to Chlorpyrifos. The minority report would reach the same safety measures for farm workers and maintain product for emergency pest outbreaks and for growers who need it to meet export requirements. The [minority](#) report is a much more balanced approach to this issue, as it meets the needs of farmers and safety.

I grew up on a Christmas tree farm in Oregon, and Chlorpyrifos is vital to protecting this specialty crop, as well as grass seed, hazelnuts, alfalfa and specialty seeds. I feel that it is irresponsible to ban a product without understanding the full consequences to farm families, like the one that I grew up in. Many of Oregon's specialty crops have state-approved Special Local Need Registrations of Chlorpyrifos since there are no alternative products available for certain pests. HB 4109 leaves some Oregon growers with no option to control certain pests that could destroy their crops.

Finally, the short session is the wrong time to vote on a bill of this nature. I remember voting yes on the short session because I believed it would be a time for "quick fixes" and tweaks to some bills. I did not expect that it would be a time for such controversial and life impacting bills to be put through in such a short time with little public input.

Thank you for hearing my concerns, and please vote no on HB 4109.

Respectfully,  
Ellie Hilger  
Tillamook County