

From: [Eric Feldhusen](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Vote NO on HB 4109
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:30:04 PM

Dear Chair Dembrow,

Please take the time to read why you should Vote "NO" on HB 4109.

Please support amendments that allow Oregon to reach the same safety measures for farm workers and maintain the product for emergency pest outbreaks and for growers who need it to meet export requirements.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has already initiated rulemaking to reduce worker exposure to chlorpyrifos. HB 4109 is a clear attempt to circumvent the state regulatory process, which is well underway and pursuing measures to protect human health.

HB 4109 opens the door to the legislators making pesticide use decisions product-by-product instead of relying on the science teams and regulators at our state and federal agencies. The legislature does not have that 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. Please do your homework before impacting my livelihood!

The unique nature of Oregon's diverse agriculture results in very few, if any, products available for controlling pests for some crops. Chlorpyrifos is vital for protecting Oregon's specialty crops, including specialty seeds, Christmas trees, grass seed, hazelnuts, alfalfa, and many more.

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 options to control key pests and will devastate yields and farm income.

HB 4109 will impact Oregon agricultural exports. Other countries and states have strong phytosanitary requirements. This legislation takes away a tool used to meet those requirements for crops with limited or no alternatives. Additionally, public health programs will not have the tools needed to control invasive insect populations.

Chlorpyrifos is an important part of Integrated Pest Management programs and Insect Resistance Management programs. Use of IPM cropping systems and preventing pest resistance can lead to more sustainable agriculture and reduced farming costs, allowing farmers to minimize production costs while supporting a sustainable food supply. It is irresponsible to ban a product without understanding the consequences to farm families. And HB 4109 provides NO support to farmers who lack alternatives to control pests, protect their crops, and access commodity markets.

I urge you to vote "NO" on HB 4109 and instead support the an approach, similar to Washington state, to protect farm workers and maintain an important tool for Oregon farmers for when other options aren't available. The Washington legislature is considering a balanced approach, and Oregon lawmakers should not leave their farmers behind!

Sincerely,

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