



21 February 2020

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Support Oregon House Bill 4109

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Baertschiger Jr., and members of the Committee,

Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. We enthusiastically support the passage of House Bill 4109 to phase out the use of chlorpyrifos, a dangerous pesticide with known harms to human health.

Chlorpyrifos can permanently harm children's brain development even at very low levels of exposure including prenatal exposure. A strong body of research has shown such exposures are associated with long-lasting effects, including lower IQ, poorer perceptual reasoning, working memory, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and poor intellectual development.

Exposure pathways include food residues and pesticide drift from fields. The U.S. EPA banned residential uses of chlorpyrifos 20 years ago because studies indicated harm to children. Now, after years of study, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that chlorpyrifos is unsafe at any detectable level. In Oregon, we know that chlorpyrifos disproportionately affects frontline and Latinx communities, and Latinx children are nearly twice as likely as white children to attend schools near the highest use of the most hazardous pesticides. Current chlorpyrifos labels require workers handling and applying chlorpyrifos not to enter into treated fields from twenty four hours up to five days.

Complaints received by the Oregon Department of Agriculture show that Oregonians, their livestock, their pets, and property are being harmed by chlorpyrifos drift and residues. Since most people don't file a formal complaint, reported cases often represent just the tip of the iceberg.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony on this important bill. Please pass HB 4109 and protect public health from the use of chlorpyrifos.

Sincerely,

Carina Perez Europa, Clean Air Organizer, Marion County

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