



February, 21, 2020

Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resource

Chair Michael Dembrow

Oppose HB 4109 and Support the Comprised Amendments

My name is Denver Pugh and I am the President of the Linn County Farm Bureau. On behalf of our members in Linn County, I urge you to please vote no on HB 4109 which would compromise many farmers ability to produce quality products by banning the sale and usage of Chlorpyrifos.

The Agriculture in Oregon is one of the top in our country for diversity on what crops we produce and Linn County is no exception. With multiple crops we get multiple pests that we have to combat. Many of these tools we use to fight these pests come in the form of pesticides that have to be specially licensed in our state for our specific crops. This licensing takes time and money. By placing an all out ban of Chlorpyrifos by 2022 this would not allow for enough time to properly find a practical replacement. This has the potential to create a huge negative impact for farmers growing specialty crops that need Chlorpyrifos to maintain healthy and insect free crops.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has already initiated rule making that reduces the exposure risk for workers. These rules are being implemented through the state regulatory process which is the right way to do this. By passing HB 4109, you would essentially be disregarding that process and claiming that the State agency in charge of all the oversight of Oregon's Agriculture is inept and that Oregon legislators, who, most have no background or education in anything Agriculture, knows better.

Farmers need tools such as Chlorpyrifos to maintain healthy stands of their crops and produce insect free products to be able to sell in most markets. Without Chlorpyrifos, you are taking away a key tool that many of us rely upon to reach such standards. Insects can be devastating to any living plant and if you take away one of our keys to combatting them without finding a proper replacement first, then you are just helping drive production elsewhere out of Oregon and potentially allowing an invasive species to move in and take over. Is that what you really want?

Denver Pugh

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denver Pugh".

Linn County Farm Bureau President