

Date: February 21, 2020

Subject: Support for H.B. 4109 The Healthy Kids and Farmworkers Act

Senator Dembrow, Vice-chair Baertschiger and Members of the Committee

My name is Francisco and I am a farmworker. For many years of my life, I have done several types of jobs related to agriculture. In this last decade, I work in a nursery, a place where thousands of trees are taken care of and grown every year. Some of my responsibilities are to change the plants from one place to another or to transplant them from the nursery to the field which puts me in contact with pesticides. I also have to divide them by type of plant and height to then be sold and transported.

I know that many pesticides including chlorpyrifos are used in nurseries, especially insecticides that kill pests and insects, especially during the summer when insects take refuge in plants. When pesticides are being applied in the area, they move us to other areas, but when we return two days after we can smell and see the residue of pesticides that are sprayed on the plants. The smell causes coughing and discomfort in the throat. There is no doubt that it eliminates insects, as I have seen the dead insects stuck to plants.

Every time I see the dead insects I can't stop thinking about our health, or the problems that could be caused to me and my family in the long term. I cannot imagine how pesticides like chlorpyrifos due to our health and how it can affect our younger children as well. I think of the residue that goes with all the plants and trees that other individuals encounter with.

I support policy 4109 because it protects the health of our rural and agricultural communities especially because it protects our families. I support the face out of chlorpyrifos because I am constantly worried about the health issues that can come with pesticides like this one. I urge you to support House Bill 4109.

Sincerely,

Francisco Martinez
Woodburn, Oregon