

Chairman Dembrow & members of the committee,

My name is a Marie Bowers and I am fifth generation farmer in Linn & Lane Counties. We primarily grow grass seed with a variety of other seed crops. My family takes great pride in being responsible stewards of the land, the soil and water that grows our crops. We have done so sustainably for over 100 years.

**I am opposed to HB 4109, the ban on Chlorpyrifos.**

Insecticide use increased on our farm after 2009. With the loss of field burning as a pest management tool we replaced it with another, in this case chlorpyrifos. Legislative actions have tradeoffs. I am appalled that the proponents of this bill offer no solutions to farmers who use the product or willing to work with farmers for those solutions.

To remain sustainable, farmers need to keep as many tools in our toolbox as possible.

Chlorpyrifos is strictly regulated and requires a pesticide applicator license for purchase. It is one of the most effective insecticides we have available that is labeled for our crops. The effectiveness on pests means that we go over the field once rather than multiple times with less successful tools; reducing our soil compaction and carbon footprint.

I am a licensed pesticide applicator and I take that privilege very seriously. This means I read the label and do not violate it. Like most applicators, I am the rule, not the exception.

As a mom, I too am concerned about the potential negative health effects on humans. However, when used as directed according to the label including using the proper protection as directed by the label, the risk is minimal. This gives me confidence to raise my baby in the middle of a grass seed field and drink the water, just as my family has done for over 100 years.

**Taking away tools from farmers without offering viable alternatives is a quick way to make family farms unsustainable.**

Please OPPOSE HB 4109