



February 21, 2020

Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Good Afternoon, Chair Sen. Dembrow, Vice-Chair Sen. Olsen, Sen. Findley, Sen. Prozanski, Sen. Roblan,

My name is Michelle Armstrong-Zielinski I am a 4th generation family farmer and have worked as an Agronomist, holding a Pesticide Consultants license for almost 16 years. I strongly OPPOSE HB4109 a ban on chlorpyrifos by 2022, I do SUPPORT the minority report that was presented in the house.

Having made applications myself and recommended Chlorpyrifos to growers when absolutely necessary on agriculture crops, I have had the opportunity to see the impact of the chlorpyrifos in Oregon agriculture. I consult in organic and conventional ag crops, giving me a unique perspective on maintaining a healthy ecosystem while trying to help a farmer get product to marketable state. I have stood on the edge of field while watching it get disced under due to crop loss from insect damage, costing the grower thousands of dollars in costs and lost revenue. With new actives taking 11 years or more to come to market costing around \$286M for each new product not including the costs of all the products that never make it, the Ag industry does not have a lot of tools at their disposal in the current market to replace lost chemistries especially in specialty crops where the time frame can be 7-10 years longer and costing considerably more. It is evident that as farmers are brought new tools to use they are quick to adopt the new technology, the decline in chlorpyrifos sales over the last several years confirms this.

Understanding how to essentially doctor a plant with a specific insect or disease problem takes on a whole program approach including, nutritional, environmental, biological and chemical. If farmers can find a beneficial or biological way to control a pest they are all for doing this as it saves them time and money while still getting a quality product to market. While some pests have minimal options available and with specialty crops having even fewer we need to have available every IPM Tool we can.

For farmers who compete in fresh market sales to places like Kroger, Albertson/Safeway, Winco, Costco and others they are forced to compete against foreign markets like Mexico who do not have the labor costs or pesticide restrictions we do here in the United States. This results in a competitive advantage for the foreign farmers versus our U.S. Farmers and leads to low margin and lost sales eventually it can and does put our farmers out of business.

I will leave you with one final thought we legalize things like alcohol and marijuana where there are multiple scientific studies proving the harm to humans and we simply regulate them.

Thank you,

Michelle Armstrong



IDEAS TO GROW WITH<sup>®</sup>

Agronomist



**WILBUR-ELLIS**  
AGRIBUSINESS

3300 South Parker Road, Suite 500, Aurora, CO 80014

Tel 720.306.6340

**IDEAS TO GROW WITH<sup>®</sup>**

[ag.wilburellis.com](http://ag.wilburellis.com)