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Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

I am a 5th generation family farmer in Polk County, Oregon and I am asking that you oppose HB4109.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the legislature passed a pesticide reform package. One of the major functions of that bill was to investigate pesticide complaints. The bill gave ODA the authority and funding to hire investigators, case reviewers, administrative help, and increase laboratory capacity at Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticide Investigation Division. In addition, it created a dedicated hotline for people to call who are concerned that they, or their property, have been exposed to pesticides. To assist with the funding for this process, there was also an increase in pesticide registration fees that applicators pay doubled from \$160 to \$320.

In review of the ODA website on violations, they list 756 since reports from 6/20/16 to 9/30/19. Some of the investigations resulted in fines others did not. The reports are on individual applicator, landscape companies, aerial applicators, chemical companies and conventional and organic farms. This would say to me that ODA is doing their job and the overall system of monitoring public concerns about ALL chemicals being used.

However, in my opinion HB4109 is NOT about investigations and enforcement. It is NOT about science or proof that Chlorpyrifos is dangerous when used properly. It is purely about politics.

In 2015 when the legislation to establish the ODA Pesticide Investigation Division was voted on, it was opposed by Representatives Holvey, Nosse, Smith-Warner, and Senator Dembrow (All Democrats). All of these individuals since 2015 have sponsored multiple bills aimed at undermining the intent of the 2015 legislation and the establishment of the ODA Pesticide Investigation Division. This bill seems to be another attempt at going around the system that was put in place and ignoring science and facts.

If this bill was NOT about politics, then committee should adopt the -5 amendments OR the House minority report OR do nothing and direct the Department of Agriculture to continue their work and broaden the rules making workgroup that they have already established around this issue.

Please STOP playing politics at the cost of small rural businesses.

Regards,

Justin Scharf
Scharf Farms Inc.