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Environmental and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Senate

Dear Committee members:

I'm writing to urge you to vote no on HB 4109 which bans the use of the insecticide chlorpyrifos in the state of Oregon.

As a licensed pesticide consultant I'm keenly aware of the importance of this insecticide as a tool for controlling important pests for our growers. Even though the amount of chlorpyrifos that I recommend and sell continues to decrease over time it remains a critical tool to control certain quarantine pests that if present would prevent my customers from selling their crop. Currently there are no alternatives to chlorpyrifos for controlling some of these pests.

In 2019 the Oregon Department of Agriculture established a working group to craft new regulations to reduce the risk of worker and bystander exposure to chlorpyrifos. This working group includes all stakeholders including those in the environmental community and farm worker representatives. I urge you to let this process play out. The risks to the general public are extremely low and there are significant safety regulations in place to limit exposure to workers and applicators currently. We need to determine if these regulations are enough or additional measures are warranted. A ban is not appropriate at this time and I urge you again to let the Oregon Department of Agriculture committee on chlorpyrifos finish their work and consider their conclusions before moving forward.

Sincerely,

Stephen Carlson