



FEB 19 2020

House Bill 4109

Relating to Chlorpyrifos

February 19, 2020

From the Desk of Representative Rick Lewis

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSERIES™

PRIORITY VOTE

HB 4109

To maintain the success of Oregon's nursery and green house industry, please vote:



For more details, contact:

Elizabeth Remley

Thorn Run
503-841-3862

Jeff Stone

Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries
971-235-3868

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) is a non-profit trade association that represents more than 700 wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, and greenhouse operators. Our members are located throughout the state, with our largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah Counties.

No. 1
Nursery and greenhouse
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY
\$1 BILLION
in annual sales
(USDA, 2018)

An unprecedented and unfounded legislative action

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) opposes House Bill 4109, which bans all uses of chlorpyrifos without any evidentiary basis to support it and without allocating funding to find viable alternatives.

Leave decisions about pesticide use to the regulatory experts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Agriculture regulate all pesticide use by approving them and providing labels describing safe use. Off-label use is illegal and punishable by law.

From the EPA website: "Before manufacturers can sell pesticides in the United States, EPA must evaluate them thoroughly to ensure that they meet federal safety standards to protect human health and the environment. We grant a "registration" or license that permits a pesticide's distribution, sale and use only after the company meets the scientific and regulatory requirements."

Let the Stakeholder Process Play Out.

After the 2019 legislative session, the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture appointed an advisory committee to craft new regulations to reduce the risk of worker and bystander exposure to chlorpyrifos. OAN and others have been working in good faith to identify regulatory measures to mitigate exposure risks. Even while participating in the work group, Beyond Toxics, PCUN and their partners worked behind the scenes to introduce HB 4109, which bans chlorpyrifos in Oregon by 2022. We are disappointed they would impugn the integrity of agricultural operators by suggesting that worker safety is not paramount. It's clear that they never intended to have a reasonable conversation about worker safety measures related to chlorpyrifos.

HB 4109 Unfairly Harms Nursery, Greenhouse and Christmas Tree Growers.

HB 4109 provides no pathway to finding appropriate alternatives to chlorpyrifos, which will leave growers saddles with substantial cost burdens when they cannot respond to pest outbreaks. Where they exist, legal alternatives have human health risks of their own.

Banning chlorpyrifos on an aggressive timeline will jeopardize domestic and international markets. In some instances, the presence of a pest will prohibit a product from entering the market or require the crop to be destroyed at port. Oregon is one of the largest exporters of Christmas Trees, and there are few accepted alternatives to combat pests.

The OAN urges you to vote NO on House Bill 4109

Oregon Association of Nurseries

29751 S.W. Town Center Loop West, Wilsonville, OR 97070
www.oan.org • PORTLAND: 503-682-5089 • TOLL FREE: 888-283-7219