

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Kathy Hadley, and I farm with my family both in the Rickreall area, just west of Salem, and in the Silverton hills. I want to stress the importance to our farms of chlorpyrifos, and how critical it is that an alternative be found as we are set to lose this tool.

We use products containing chlorpyrifos to protect our crops from certain insects, which can have a devastating affect on particularly our perennial crops. Sod web worm, for example, can kill grass seed fields, meaning we have to take the field out of production earlier than planned. This can mean increased tillage, which especially on our steep slopes at the Silverton farm is not ideal for erosion. Although grass seed is what we use chlorpyrifos primarily for, many other crops rely on it, and bottom line is, there are no good alternatives in many cases right now, which is very scary for many of us farmers.

Dedicating these funds for studying alternatives is a necessary step to be taken, so we dont leave our farmers at risk, who could literally lose entire crops without the pest control ability. Thank you in advance for supporting HB 3249 to help make this research a reality.