

Dustin Welters Testimony on HB3058

Hello,

My name is Dustin Welters and I am a Crop Advisor in Albany, Oregon and the surrounding area. I graduated with a degree in Crop & Soil Science from Oregon State University.

Part of my job is to help my customers be successful in raising their crops; this means using a variety of pesticides that we have in our toolbox to combat insects, weeds, diseases and more. One of these tools is chlorpyrifos.

Oregon is the world's largest producer of cool season grasses (estimated farm gate value of \$455 million), the number one producer of Christmas trees in the U.S. (wholesale value of \$90 million), and also a premier production region for specialty seeds and clover seeds (farm gate value of roughly \$70-\$80 million). While these are major crops for Oregon farmers, they represent a small blip of nationwide agriculture as compared to corn, soybeans, and wheat. This means as crop advisors and farmers we rely heavily on Section 24(c) Special Local Needs labels, and Special 2(ee) recommendations in many of our crops, which means there are no other alternatives to address specific pest pressures for designated crops.

Lorsban Advanced Insecticide has 6 of these labels in Oregon:

24(c):

1. For Control of Garden Symphylans in Table and Sugarbeets or Swiss Chard Grown for Seed
2. For Control of Insects Infesting Perennial Grass Grown for Seed
3. For Control of Various Insects Infesting Clover Grown for Seed
4. For Control of Cutworms and Lygus Infesting Carrots Grown for Seed
5. For Control of Cutworms Infesting Radish Grown for Seed
6. For Control of Various Insects infesting Cottonwood/Poplar Grow for Pulp or Wood

2(ee):

1. For Control of Flatheaded Borer in Filbert
2. For control of Root Maggots, Cutworms, Symphylans, Billbugs, Wireworms, Grubs in Veg

While I could sit here and speak to the importance of chlorpyrifos in all of these crops I'd like to high light one.

In Christmas tree plantations we struggle with many damaging insects such as scale, weevils, aphids, midges, ants, moths, and the list goes on. While there a handful of insecticides labeled in Christmas trees, chlorpyrifos is by far the most efficacious and cost-effective option for Oregon farmers. Eliminating chlorpyrifos registrations would put Oregon farmers at a disadvantage in the marketplace and make it tougher to meet sanitation standards for Christmas trees that are exported out of the state and country.

As crop advisors and farmers, the safety of our food supply and workers is our number one priority. We strictly follow all Worker Protection Standards and pre-harvest intervals for pesticides, including chlorpyrifos.

The removal of this tool from our toolbox would be devastating to Oregon's agricultural economy. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this bill.

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