From:	Steven VanGrunsven
To:	Rep Clem; Rep McLain; Rep Post; Rep BoshartDavis; Rep Helm; Rep Smith D; Rep Williams; Exhibits HAGLU
Subject:	Please Stop HB3058
Date:	Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:27:37 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Dear Legislators,

Please stop this unnecessary piece of legislation. It is the job of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to regulate the pesticides that are used in our state. These decisions take many days and weeks to weigh all of the information involved.

Pesticides to a farmer are like wrenches to a mechanic. If you remove the best tool for the job it is harder to get it done and it may not get done right. This is why the ODA thinks long and hard before removing or adding pesticides available to farmers.

I grow sugar beets for seed which is a very important crop in our valley. This seed has an extremely low threshold for pests. Chlorpyrifos is the only insecticide that controls the seed weevil. This pest is extremely detrimental to the crop quality and yield. We are working with newer insecticide technology but these haven't proven to be effective.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are widely used as seed treatments. This is the safest way to control early season pests. Under the current rules when planting a seed with a restricted use seed treatment the person planting the seed would need to be a licensed pesticide applicator.

Neonicotinoids are widely used by homeowners and pet owners to control many pests like fleas and ticks. This would eliminate numerous pet health products and systemic insect control for the yard and garden.

When used according to the label these products are extremely safe. The problems arise when the applicator fails to read the label or refuses to follow the directions. We already have laws that require the applicator to follow the label.

Chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoid insecticides are integral components of Integrated Pest Management programs and Insect Resistance Management programs. Use of IPM cropping systems and preventing pest resistance can lead to more sustainable agriculture and reduced farming costs, allowing farmers to minimize production costs while supporting a sustainable food supply.

Thanks,

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