

**From:** [Lisa Ward](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits HAGLU](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep KenyGuyer](#)  
**Subject:** Please support House Bill 3058  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:24:43 PM

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Esteemed Legislators,

I would like to voice my support for House Bill 3058, which would have a significant and positive impact on the overall health and economy of the State of Oregon. There is no longer any room for doubt that Chlorpyrifos harm everything from our children's mental development to the very invertebrates and pollinators that sustain our agricultural yield. Similarly, the introduction and wide-spread use of Neonicotinoids has caused a catastrophic collapse on ecologies that support human life on earth. We have been silently witnessing the devastating consequences of these insecticides despite mounting evidence that they cause more harm than good.

Two weeks ago, 50 people were killed by armed terrorists at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. Less than 1 week later, the weapons used in that attack were outlawed nation wide.

We have to act with equivalent speed. The decimation of insect populations that we are currently experiencing is an even more critical emergency on a global scale, in that it threatens all life on earth. We may not be able to identify every cause of the insect apocalypse, but we have to act swiftly to eliminate the causes we can identify. Chlorpyrifos and Neonicotinoids are two identifiable toxins that are having devastating consequences on our food chain at multiple levels. They need to be taken out of circulation immediately.

Beyond the known effects that Chlorpyrifos and Neonicotinoids are having on our health, the economic significance of losing more pollinators could easily cripple the State's economy. Insects are relied upon to pollinate at least three quarters of our food crops, a service estimated at easily \$500 billion every year worldwide. As an example, in the Marxian Valley in China where shortages of insect pollinators have led farmers to hire humans workers at a cost of \$19 per worker per day. Pollinating apple blossoms by hand is an epic undertaking. At best, one person can cover 5-10 trees a day. (<https://nyti.ms/2DMT70v>) California is currently facing similar challenges trying to pollinate almond orchards due to drastic die-offs in local bee hives.

Anthropologists believe that humans first began practicing agriculture around 12,000 years ago. For the vast majority of that time, food was grown without chemical pesticides. Never in that 12,000 years have we attempted to grow food without the help of insects. With 7 billion humans now living on earth, this seems like a particularly bad time to try such an experiment.

Please pass House Bill 3058. Many lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ward  
Native Oregonian // Resident of SE Portland (97206)