



## **RENEW OREGON'S PESTICIDE USE REPORTING SYSTEM (PURS)**

We urge legislators to look closely at the benefits of reinstating and funding Oregon's Pesticide Use Reporting System ("PURS"). PURS allows Oregon Department of Agriculture to collect specific data on businesses' and government entities' use of pesticides, including private land, government land, and areas where the public has access. The PURS program is the result of significant legislative consensus 20 years ago, protects confidential data and provides the state with data to understand how registered pesticides are used throughout Oregon. Unfortunately, the program only collected data for a brief period in the late 2000s.

Without reinstating the PURS program, legislative decisions regarding pesticide restrictions are premature. We encourage the legislature to prioritize the PURS system and avoid difficult technical or policy decisions on pesticides without leveraging our existing infrastructure for monitoring and analyzing pesticide use throughout the state.

### **HISTORY**

The 1999 Oregon Legislature passed legislation to require all pesticide users to report their pesticide use to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Both agricultural and environmental groups supported this legislation. The program was funded by a 50/50 split between pesticide product registration fee increase of \$40 per product per year and the general fund.

2008 was the first full year of reporting. In 2009, the Legislature defunded the PURS program and shifted the funding to the Pesticide Stewardship Program. The statutory framework for PURS is set to sunset in 2019.

### **ELEMENTS OF PURS**

- **Who Reports:** any person who uses or applies a pesticide in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, or for a government entity, or in a location intended for public use or access.
- **What's Reported:** Product and EPA registration number, amount, and application location. All individual information is kept confidential, but data can be aggregated and shared for qualified research purposes.
- **Reporting Frequency:** At least once per year, due January 31 for the prior year.
- **Exemptions:** Only antimicrobial pesticide applications and applications by households are exempt from reporting.

### **HB 2980**

HB 2980 proposes a ten-year extension of PURS, as long as the reporting elements and 50/50 split of funding remains the same. Additional conversations regarding funding, both from registration fees and the general fund can lead to Oregon having a renewed understanding of pesticide use.

Without PURS, the legislature is not equipped or informed to make technical decisions about individual applications. Extending and funding PURS is the logical first step before any renewed legislative efforts to regulate pesticides.

For questions or additional information, contact:  
Rocky Dallum at rocky.dallum@tonkon.com or 503-830-5098  
Katie Fast at katie@ofsonline.org or 503-510-5293