



Greg Bennett &lt;greg.nwonion@gmail.com&gt;

Your address for SB 853

1 message

Chair - S. Dembow  
 " = S. Olsen

Liz Wright &lt;liz.nwonion@gmail.com&gt;

To: Greg &lt;greg.nwonion@gmail.com&gt;

members of the Committee

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 11:21 AM

My name is Greg Bennett. I am a fourth generation onion farmer here in the Willamette Valley just North of Salem <sup>and</sup> near Silverton. I am here today in opposition of SB 853. The reason I am in opposition is because this bill would take away the one tool we have to combat the onion maggot.

The onion maggot is an onion farmers number one pest, it affects seedling onions in early spring at emergence into the three to four leaf stage and without treatment during planting a farmer could lose 10-75 percent of a crop.

Chlorpyrifos or Lorsban by trade name is the only registered insecticide for control of the onion maggot. Application rates are small at the time of planting; approximately 16 to 32 ounces per acre. Without the use of Lorsban the future of the onion industry looks bleak. I understand that this bill stems from safety, which all farmers hold with the highest regard and whom are more than happy to change products if there is another viable solution. At this time there is not. I can safely say for myself and my peers that we welcome and eagerly await new, safe and effective science based chemistry. If this bill passes it will remove the one tool we have to ensure that there is enough safe product to produce for consumption.

In closing I would like to compare this situation to a doctor patient relationship. If you had a chronic condition and the only medication that worked for your condition was discontinued how long would you survive without treatment? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Wright  
 Northwest Onion Co.  
 503-792-3781  
 Fax: 503-792-3789

<https://youtu.be/hz2TxE-qyk0>  
<http://www.northwestonion.com>