

March 24, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

900 Court St. NE

Room 347

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Oregon SB 853 and HB 3058- Ban on Chlorpyrifos and Restrictions for Neonicotinoids

Dear Chairs Clem and Dembrow, and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use:

The pesticides that people are using these days are extremely harmful. It's not just people that are living on farms that are using them. People living in town, in close range to other homes where people have kids, pets, bees, and beneficial insects are using these pesticides all over the place without even thinking of the outcomes.

My boyfriend and his mom live in the city of Warrenton. Last year they went and took classes over a weekend on bee keeping. They have always lived on farms and raised animals throughout the years and thought why not try out beekeeping. They were super excited getting their hive all put together, and then their bees came. The hive was good and healthy for a couple months. They were producing honey combs as they were supposed to. One day he went out to check on them and something was off. He noticed a bunch of dead bees in the bottom of the hive. Thinking there was a way to save them; he grabbed a specimen and jumped in his truck to head to Portland to see what he could do. He was sad to find out upon arriving that there was nothing he could do to save them. The bees were killed due to neighbors using these harmful pesticides and it was too late to save any of them.

This seems to be a very unfortunate and ongoing problem. If honey bees become extinct so will the health-giving and delicious fresh fruits and vegetables that people rely on to help feed their families. These pesticides are dangerously toxic not just for bees and animals, but for humans as well.

Experiencing this situation first hand I strongly urge the Oregon Legislative Assembly to ban all chlorpyrifos and restrict neonicotinoid pesticides in the State of Oregon. They are harmful to our communities. I definitely, without a doubt, support these two bills HB 3058 and SB 583.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the name.

Amy Wilson

Astoria, Oregon