

Watts Remy

From: ott.irene@frontier.com
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 1:11 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Fw: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 853 on the agenda for 4/8/19 meeting

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources:

I am concerned that the legislature can pass bills absent any requirement to establish the costs to the public and businesses in this state.

Passage of this bill will cause an extreme financial hardship on the businesses in Oregon involved in multiple farming enterprises including grain growing, vegetable, fruit and nut growers, nurseries, and seed growers.

This bill is not needed as there are already federal controls on the use of pesticides and decisions regarding their use should be left up to experts using peer reviewed studies. Listing research absent information regarding who conducted and paid for the studies and what controls were in place often results in inaccurate outcomes. The legislature as a group lacks the specialized education and knowledge to make decisions regarding the impacts and outcomes from a bill dealing with chemical use and risks.

While I have not commercially grown many of the products that would be impacted by banning of chlorpyrifos, I did in the past own a commercial filbert orchard, and was licensed as a pesticide applicator. Oregon filberts are prized in Oregon, but even more so in other countries. Growers must control filbert worms which eat the nuts leaving "blanks". When the nuts are sold, growers get a premium for large nuts, but they are docked for excess moisture and blanks. Absent effective and timely treatment to deal with filbert worms, a grower can lose 30% or 40% of their crop.

Given the clear labeling and availability of organically grown food products, the public has access to fruits and vegetables which were not grown with the use of chemical agents. The consumer can and should make the determination regarding whether or not they want to purchase products which are grown with or without chemical pesticides.

I grow a large vegetable garden and can, freeze and dry most of the vegetables and fruits that our family eats. I rely upon chemicals to keep pests from destroying my hard labor in growing our food. That is a choice I should be allowed to make. For me, getting my protein from eating bugs in my vegetables and fruit is far more objectionable than whatever risk there may be from my using pesticides to grow my produce.

Please leave decisions regarding the use of pesticide agents to the experts and consumer decisions regarding the products they chose to purchase.

Irene Gilbert
2310 Adams Ave.
La Grande, Oregon 97850
Union County