

Dear Chair Holvey,

I am a farmer and I oppose HB 2619. Banning chlorpyrifos is not an issue for the legislature. It is an issue that is meant for state and federal regulators to decide based on science, not partisan politics. This ban will hurt the Oregon economy by taking away one of the tools that farmers use to protect our crops. Other states and countries have strict phytosanitary requirements, and chlorpyrifos is sometimes the ONLY chemical we have to meet those standards. This an unnecessary piece of legislation. It smacks of the emotional decision making, that started the neonic scare--a charge led by total misinformation to the public. VOTE NO on HB 2619

HB 2619 attempts to unnecessarily ban chlorpyrifos, which would remove this valuable pest management tool from Oregon's farmers. Chlorpyrifos has been used in cropping systems for over 4 decades, is authorized for use in nearly 100 countries and is labelled for use on more than 50 agricultural crops. These bills put Oregon growers, who must compete in the interstate and international markets, at a significant disadvantage.

Oregon farmers grow over 225 different crops, and chlorpyrifos is a vital tool on specialty crops when there is no alternative pesticide available. Keeping this tool available is critical to controlling crop-damaging insects in Oregon's Christmas trees, vegetables, mint, and many of our crops grown for seed such as clover, radish, and perennial grass.

There are federal actions taking place on the product. On April 19, 2019, the 9th Circuit mandated EPA to provide justification of decisions on chlorpyrifos. EPA has 90 days to respond to this court demand. Additionally, EPA is conducting an ongoing registration review and will complete their assessment by the deadline of October 1, 2022. The supporting science of chlorpyrifos covers over 45 years of research and EPA has produced a vast collection of science-related documents to support national and international pesticide registration decisions.

Please allow the federal legal and regulatory to progress and not make an uninformed decision at the state level to ban this much needed pesticide.

Sincerely,

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