



May 7, 2019

To: House Rules Committee
ATTN: Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2619

The Oregon Organic Coalition, and our represented members, supports HB 2619 and urges the House Committee and our elected Representatives, to pass this bill out of committee.

Oregon Organic Coalition supports HB 2619, banning the use of chlorpyrifos, a toxic nerve agent pesticide scientifically proven to cause brain damage in children, contaminate waterways and harm wildlife. After years of study, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that **chlorpyrifos is unsafe at any detectable level** and was set to ban it in 2017. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration reversed that decision and the issue remains tied up in the courts. Oregon can do better.

We have coordinated a strong coalition of organizations, farmers and businesses to support this bill addressing the harms caused by Chlorpyrifos and which is the target of restrictions in other states and countries around the world. Members of the Oregon Organic Coalition recognize the importance of protecting Oregonians, our agricultural lands, the pristine environment for which Oregon is known and loved, and the health of the public from the negative impacts that Chlorpyrifos has on all these incredible resources.

We have seen messages from the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation in opposition to this bill and want to let our Representatives know that they do not represent all of agriculture in Oregon. There are many organic and conventional farmers, businesses and citizens, within our agricultural community in Oregon, for whom the Farm Bureau does not speak. There are alternatives to Chlorpyrifos and alternative approaches to agriculture. With innovation toward a more sustainable future, there are triple bottom line opportunities for success. Organic agriculture is one such path and there are conventional farming methods that also can be utilized. All of which provide better outcomes for our economy, communities and environment. *HB 2619 would provide much needed protections to Oregon's children, farm workers, land and waterways.*

I wish these comments to be submitted as testimony for public hearing.

Stacy Ann Kraker,

President, Oregon Organic Coalition

The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) is a trade support organization, working to advance the development and growth of the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC represents volunteer stakeholders--farmers, wholesalers, processors, organic certifiers, scientists, consumers and retailers. We lead promotional activities and advocate for state policy to support and grow Oregon's organic trade.

Chlorpyrifos

Chlorpyrifos is a widely used organophosphate insecticide tied to development disorders in children that is harmful for humans to touch, inhale or eat.ⁱ It acts as a nerve agent, attacking chemical pathways in the body creating a breakdown in the ability of nerves to communicate and function.ⁱⁱ The United States Environmental Protection Agency under Scott Pruitt recently refused to finalize a court ordered national ban on Chlorpyrifos, necessitating action at the state level.ⁱⁱⁱ To protect the health of farmworkers, to safeguard our food supply, and to protect our environment, we urge Oregon to join Hawaii and New York in passing the statewide ban on Chlorpyrifos found in HB 2619.

ⁱ National Pesticide Information Center. Chlorpyrifos General Fact Sheet. 4/10.

ⁱⁱ Cuthbert, Lori. *National Geographic*. "EPA Must Ban Dangerous Insecticide". 8/10/2018

ⁱⁱⁱ National Resources Defense Council. "Hawaii Bans Use of Toxic Pesticide Chlorpyrifos" 6/13/18.