

To: Chair Rep. Holvey, Vice-Chairs Rep. Williamson and Rep. Wilson and members of the Rules Committee
From: Anne Nesse, Director <http://SustainableEconomiesNW.com>



Testimony in Favor of HB 2619 A

The health of Oregon's soil, air, and water is of paramount importance in a more sustainable economy. And we simply cannot continue to exist as a species in the world, if we do not work towards building more healthy soils, that grow more healthy foods.

As other testimony has stated, the chemical pesticides that contain chlorpyrifos are not healthy in any way to the ecology of Oregon's soil, or the humans who live and eat the produce grown from this soil. Based on many scientific studies, the EPA admits that even very low levels of exposure to chlorpyrifos on staple foods like corn, wheat, apples and citrus--can cause irreparable harm and damage to children's developing brains.

This is why we must ban this chemical, as it was banned in the past for residential use. Farmers are defeating their own purpose in using this neurotoxic chemical on their soil. Chlorpyrifos is designed to kill everything that makes soil healthy. This chemical pesticide kills microorganisms, beneficial insects and many other components of the organic matter in soil. Soil scientists know that organic matter is the lifeblood of healthy soils. And killing this complex array of components that make up healthy soil disrupts the relationship of plants and their ability to grow resilient to other pests. The sooner we ban these chemicals, the sooner Oregon's soils can become more healthy and grow with more resilience and abundance. The insects and microorganisms we kill with chlorpyrifos only mutate faster when we use this approach to farming, and then we are left with the problem of one more chemical to invent and purchase.

It is a process, to be sure, to help make Oregon soils more resilient and healthy. But we must begin the journey somewhere. If this committee of Rules understands this process, perhaps chlorpyrifos can be withdrawn gradually, for some farmers who feel they cannot stop using this maladaptive approach all at once.

Thank you,
Anne Nesse, SustainableEconomiesNW.com