



May 8, 2019

House Committee Rules

RE: HB 2619 A – **OPPOSED**

Chair Holvey and Committee,

My name is Marie Bowers and I am fifth generation farmer in Linn & Lane Counties. We primarily grow grass seed with a variety of other seed crop. My family takes great pride in being responsible stewards of the land and the soil that grows our crops. We have done so sustainably for over 100 years; in spite of the challenges the legislature deals us. We live on the same land and drink the water that's filtered through the soil.

I am **opposed to HB 2619 A**, the ban on Chlorpyrifos.

Insecticide use increased on our farm after 2009. With the loss of field burning as a pest management tool we replaced it with another, in this case chlorpyrifos. We were told the legislature will not go after our pesticides but yet every session we have to fight to keep our tools.

To remain sustainable, we need to keep as many tools in our toolbox as possible.

Chlorpyrifos is strictly regulated and requires a pesticide applicator license for purchase. It is one of the most effective insecticides available. This allows for us to go over the field once rather than multiple times with less effective tools; reducing our soil compaction and carbon footprint.

I am a licensed pesticide applicator and I take that privilege very seriously. This means I read the label and do not violate it. Like most applicators, I am the rule, not the exception.

As a new mom I too am concerned about the potential negative health effects on humans. However, when used as directed according to the label including using the proper protection as directed by the label, the risk is minimal. This gives me confidence to raise my baby in the middle of a grass seed field and drink the water, just as my family has done for over 100 years.

Taking away tools from farmers without offering viable alternatives is a quick way to make farms unsustainable.

Please **OPPOSE** HB 2619 A.